



US009466804B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kishino et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,466,804 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 11, 2016**

(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING ELEMENT**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/760,093**

(22) PCT Filed: **Jan. 7, 2014**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/JP2014/050389**
§ 371 (c)(1),
(2) Date: **Jul. 9, 2015**

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2014/112450**
PCT Pub. Date: **Jul. 24, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2015/0357587 A1 Dec. 10, 2015

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**
Jan. 17, 2013 (JP) 2013-006321

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01L 51/00 (2006.01)
C09K 11/06 (2006.01)
(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H01L 51/0085** (2013.01); **C07F 15/0033** (2013.01); **C09K 11/06** (2013.01);
(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H01L 51/0085; H01L 51/0077; H01L 51/0092; H01L 51/5206; H01L 2251/305; H01L 27/3248; H01L 51/5221; H01L 2251/5361; H01L 27/322; H01L 51/5016; C07F 15/0033; C09K 11/06; C09K 2211/1007

See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Michelle Mandala

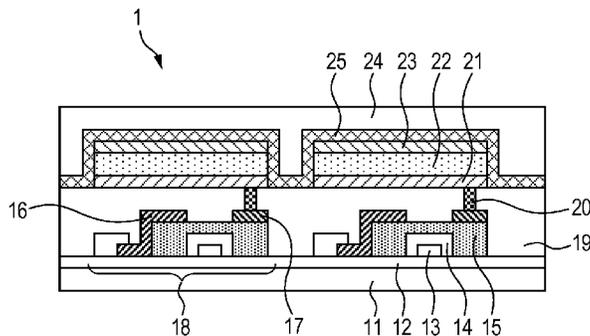
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is an organic light-emitting element having high light-emitting efficiency and a long element lifetime. The organic light-emitting element includes an anode, a cathode, and an organic compound layer placed between the anode and the cathode, and the organic compound layer includes an iridium complex represented by the following general formula [1] and a metal complex represented by the following general formula [9].



13 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



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| (51) | Int. Cl. | | | | | |
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- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
 CPC **H01L51/0077** (2013.01); **H01L 51/0092** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1007** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1011** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1029** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1033** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1037** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1044** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1088** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/1092** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/181** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/185** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/186** (2013.01); **C09K 2211/188** (2013.01); **H01L 27/322** (2013.01); **H01L 27/3248** (2013.01); **H01L 51/5016** (2013.01); **H01L 51/5206** (2013.01); **H01L 51/5221** (2013.01); **H01L 2251/305** (2013.01); **H01L 2251/5361** (2013.01)

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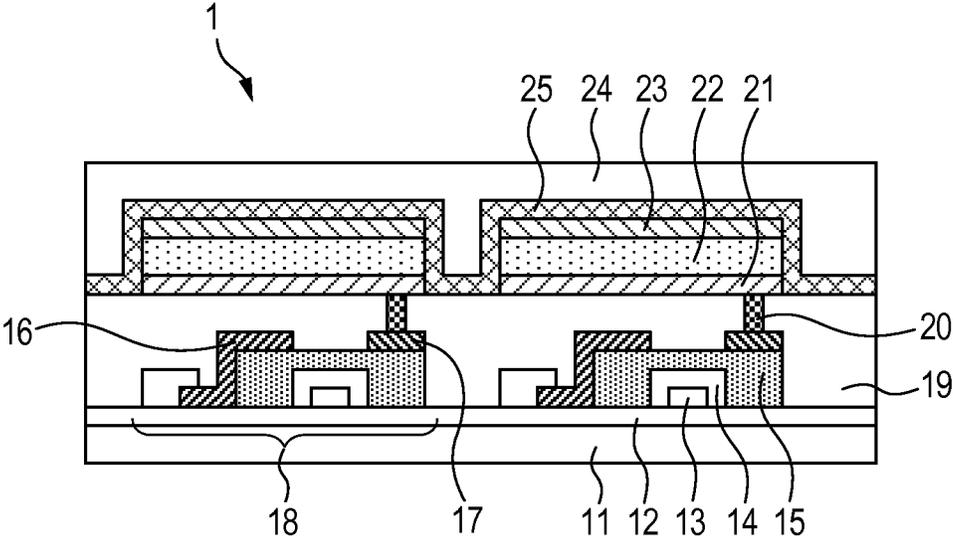
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ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING ELEMENT

TECHNICAL FIELD

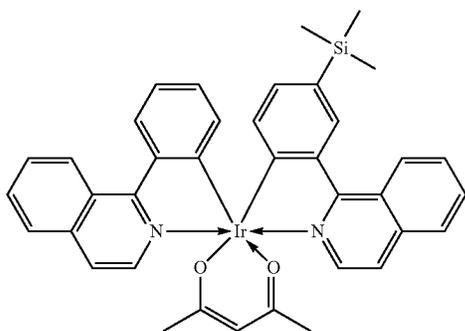
The present invention relates to an organic light-emitting element.

BACKGROUND ART

Organic light-emitting elements (organic electroluminescent elements or organic EL elements) are each an electronic element including an anode, a cathode, and an organic compound layer placed between both of these electrodes. A hole and electron injected from both the electrodes recombine in the organic compound layer to produce an exciton, and the organic light-emitting element emits light upon return of the exciton to its ground state. Recent advance of the organic light-emitting elements is significant and the advanced light-emitting elements have, for example, the following features. The elements can be driven at low voltages, emit light beams having various wavelengths, have high-speed responsiveness, and can be reduced in thickness and weight.

Of the organic light-emitting elements, a phosphorescent light-emitting element is an organic light-emitting element that includes, in its organic compound layer, a material that emits phosphorescence; and provides light emission derived from a triplet exciton of the material that emits phosphorescence. In recent years, creation of a novel phosphorescent light-emitting material has been vigorously performed for providing a high-performance phosphorescent light-emitting element.

For example, a trivalent iridium complex having a metal-carbon bond has been frequently used as a guest material for a phosphorescent light-emitting element because of its high phosphorescence quantum yield. Patent Literature 1 describes, as a specific example of the iridium complex to be used as a guest, an iridium complex shown below in which three different kinds of bidentate ligands coordinate to iridium.



A metal complex to be incorporated as a host into an emission layer together with the iridium complex has also been known, and examples thereof include metal complexes disclosed in Patent Literature 2 and Patent Literature 3.

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature

PTL 1: International Patent WO2007/143201A

PTL 2: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2009-152568

PTL 3: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2009-218571

PTL 4: International Patent WO2010/028151A

PTL 5: International Patent WO2009/060995A

Non Patent Literature

NPL 1: Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. (1999). Vol. 72, 2345-2350

The present invention has been made to solve the problems and an object of the present invention is to provide an organic light-emitting element having high light-emitting efficiency and a long element lifetime.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Solution to Problem

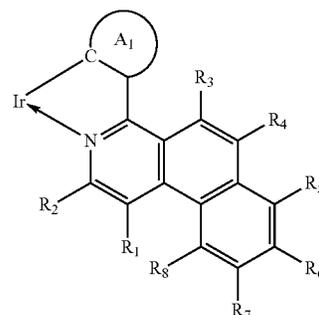
According to one embodiment of the present invention, there is provided an organic light-emitting element, including:

- an anode;
- a cathode; and
- an organic compound layer placed between the anode and the cathode,

in which the organic compound layer includes an iridium complex represented by the following general formula [1] and a metal complex represented by the following general formula [9].



In the formula [1], a partial structure IrL_1 includes a partial structure represented by the following general formula [2].



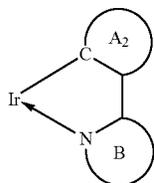
In the formula [2], a ring A_1 represents an aromatic ring or an aromatic heterocycle, and the aromatic ring and aromatic heterocycle each represented by the ring A_1 may each further have a substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

R_1 to R_8 each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group, and may be identical to or different from one another, and when any one of substituents represented by the R_1 to R_8 is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, or an aryloxy group, the substituent may further have

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any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

In the formula [1], a partial structure IrL_2 includes a partial structure represented by the following general formula [3].



In the formula [3], a ring A_2 represents an aromatic ring or an aromatic heterocycle, and the aromatic ring and aromatic heterocycle each represented by the ring A_2 may each further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

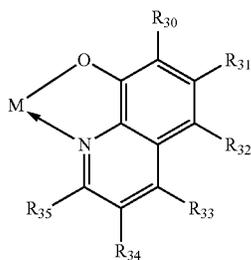
A ring B represents a nitrogen-containing aromatic heterocycle, and the nitrogen-containing aromatic heterocycle represented by the ring B may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

L_1 and L_2 represent ligands that are different from each other and are not identical to each other.

In the formula [1], L_3 represents a monovalent bidentate ligand having an atom that forms a covalent bond with iridium and is selected from N, O, S, and P, and an atom that forms a coordinate bond with iridium and is selected from N, O, S, and P, and the atom that forms the covalent bond with iridium and the atom that forms the coordinate bond with iridium may be identical to or different from each other.



In the formula [9], M represents a divalent metal atom selected from Zn, Be, Mg, Ca, Co, and Ni, L and L' each represent a bidentate ligand, L and L' may be identical to or different from each other, and ML and ML' each represent any one of partial structures represented by the following general formulae [10] to [15].

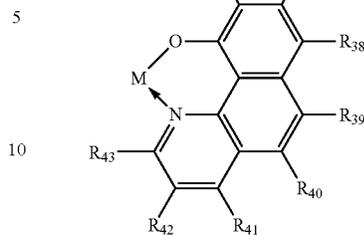


[10]

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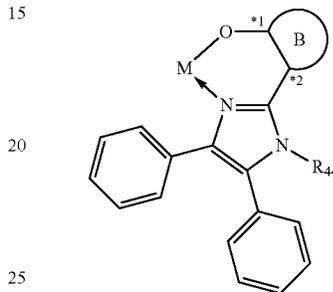
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[11]



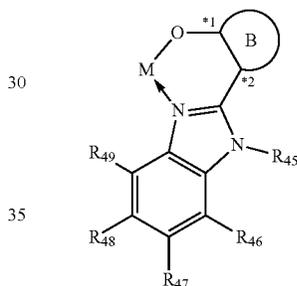
[3]

[12]



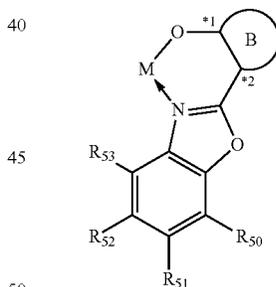
[9]

[13]



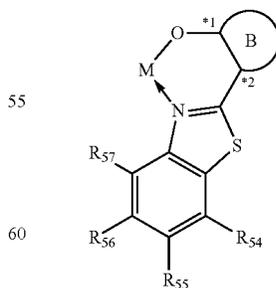
[3]

[14]



[9]

[15]



[3]

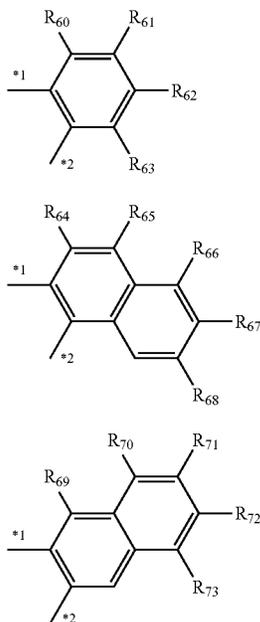
In the formulae [10] to [15], R_{30} to R_{57} each represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a substituted amino

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group, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group.

In the formulae [12] to [15], a ring B includes any one of cyclic structures represented by the following general formulae [16] to [18].

*1 represents a bonding position with an oxygen atom and *2 represents a bonding position with a carbon atom in a five-membered heterocyclic skeleton.



In the formulae [16] to [18], R_{60} to R_{73} each represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a substituted amino group, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group.

Further features of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of exemplary embodiments with reference to the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic sectional view illustrating an organic light-emitting element and a switching element to be connected to the organic light-emitting element.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

No reference has been made to the sublimability and heat stability of the complex proposed in Patent Literature 1, and hence whether or not its sublimation purification or vacuum deposition can be performed is unclear. In addition, with regard to an organic light-emitting element whose emission layer contains the metal complex disclosed in Patent Literature 2 or Patent Literature 3 as a host, the light-emitting efficiency of the resultant organic light-emitting element has been low.

Hereinafter, the present invention is described in detail.

(1) Organic Light-Emitting Element

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An organic light-emitting element of the present invention is a light-emitting element including at least: an anode and a cathode; and an organic compound layer placed between the anode and the cathode. In addition, the organic light-emitting element of the present invention includes, in the organic compound layer, an iridium complex represented by the following general formula [1] and a metal complex compound represented by the following general formula [9].



It should be noted that details about the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] and the metal complex represented by the general formula [9] are described later.

The element construction of the organic light-emitting element of the present invention is, for example, a multi-layer-type element construction obtained by sequentially laminating, on a substrate, electrode layers and an organic compound layer described in each of the following constructions (1) to (6). It should be noted that in each of the element constructions, the organic compound layer necessarily includes an emission layer including a light-emitting material.

(1) Anode/emission layer/cathode

(2) Anode/hole transport layer/emission layer/electron transport layer/cathode

(3) Anode/hole transport layer/emission layer/electron transport layer/electron injection layer/cathode

(4) Anode/hole injection layer/hole transport layer/emission layer/electron transport layer/cathode

(5) Anode/hole injection layer/hole transport layer/emission layer/electron transport layer/electron injection layer/cathode

(6) Anode/hole transport layer/electron blocking layer/emission layer/hole blocking layer/electron transport layer/cathode

It should be noted that those element construction examples are only very basic element constructions and the element construction of the organic light-emitting element of the present invention is not limited thereto.

For example, the following various layer constructions can each be adopted: an insulating layer, an adhesion layer, or an interference layer is provided at an interface between an electrode and the organic compound layer, the electron transport layer or the hole transport layer is constituted of two layers having different ionization potentials, or the emission layer is constituted of two layers including different light-emitting materials.

In the present invention, the aspect according to which light output from the emission layer is extracted (element form) may be the so-called bottom emission system in which the light is extracted from an electrode on a side closer to the substrate or may be the so-called top emission system in which the light is extracted from a side opposite to the substrate. In addition, a double-face extraction system in which the light is extracted from each of the side closer to the substrate and the side opposite to the substrate can be adopted.

Of the element constructions (1) to (6), the construction (6) is preferred because the construction includes both the electron blocking layer and the hole blocking layer. In other words, the construction (6) including the electron blocking layer and the hole blocking layer provides an organic light-emitting element that does not cause any carrier leakage and has high light-emitting efficiency because both

carriers, i.e., a hole and an electron can be trapped in the emission layer with reliability.

In the organic light-emitting element of the present invention, the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] and the metal complex compound represented by the general formula [9] are preferably incorporated into the emission layer out of the organic compound layer. In this case, the emission layer includes at least the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] and the metal complex compound represented by the general formula [9]. The applications of the compounds to be incorporated into the emission layer in this case vary depending on their content concentrations in the emission layer. Specifically, the compounds are classified into a main component and a sub-component depending on their content concentrations in the emission layer.

The compound serving as the main component is a compound having the largest weight ratio (content concentration) out of the group of compounds to be incorporated into the emission layer and is a compound also called a host. In addition, the host is a compound present as a matrix around the light-emitting material in the emission layer, and is a compound mainly responsible for the transport of a carrier to the light-emitting material and the donation of an excitation energy to the light-emitting material.

In addition, the compound serving as the sub-component is a compound except the main component and can be called a guest (dopant), a light emission assist material, or a charge-injecting material depending on a function of the compound. The guest as one kind of sub-component is a compound (light-emitting material) responsible for main light emission in the emission layer. The light emission assist material as one kind of sub-component is a compound that assists the light emission of the guest and is a compound having a smaller weight ratio (content concentration) in the emission layer than that of the host. The light emission assist material is also called a second host by virtue of its function.

The concentration of the guest with respect to the host is 0.01 wt % or more and 50 wt % or less, preferably 0.1 wt % or more and 20 wt % or less with reference to the total amount of the constituent materials for the emission layer. The concentration of the guest is particularly preferably 1 wt % or more and 15 wt % or less from the viewpoint of preventing concentration quenching.

In the present invention, the guest may be uniformly incorporated into the entirety of the layer in which the host serves as a matrix, or may be incorporated so as to have a concentration gradient. In addition, the guest may be partially incorporated into a specific region in the emission layer to make the layer a layer having a region free of the guest and formed only of the host.

In the present invention, the following aspect is preferred: both the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] and the metal complex compound represented by the general formula [9] are incorporated as the guest and the host, respectively, into the emission layer. In this case, in addition to the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1], another phosphorescent light-emitting material may be further incorporated into the emission layer for assisting the transfer of an exciton or a carrier.

In addition, a compound different from the metal complex compound represented by the general formula [9] may be further incorporated as the second host (or the light emission assist material) into the emission layer for assisting the transfer of the exciton or the carrier. When the second host (or the light emission assist material) is incorporated into the emission layer, the second host (or the light emission assist

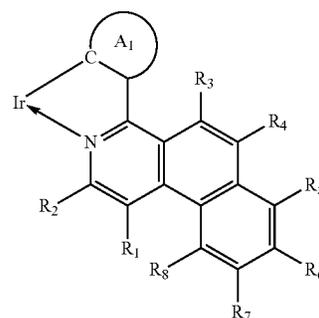
material) is desirably incorporated at less than 50 wt % with reference to the total amount of the constituent materials for the emission layer.

(2) Iridium Complex

In the organic light-emitting element of the present invention, the iridium complex to be incorporated as the guest into the emission layer is a compound represented by the following general formula [1].



In the general formula [1], L_1 , L_2 , and L_3 represent bidentate ligands different from one another. Here, a partial structure IrL_1 is specifically a partial structure represented by the following general formula [2].



In the general formula [2], a ring A_1 represents an aromatic ring or an aromatic heterocycle.

Examples of the aromatic ring represented by the ring A_1 include, but, of course, not limited to, a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, a fluorene ring, a phenanthrene ring, an anthracene ring, a chrysene ring, a triphenylene ring, and a pyrene ring. Of those, a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, a fluorene ring, or a phenanthrene ring is preferred from the viewpoint of controlling the color of the phosphorescence of the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] to an orange color to a red color.

Examples of the aromatic heterocycle represented by the ring A_1 include, but, of course, not limited to, a thiophene ring, a furan ring, an imidazole ring, a pyridine ring, a benzothiophene ring, a benzofuran ring, a quinoline ring, a carbazole ring, a dibenzofuran ring, and a dibenzothiophene ring. Of those, a carbazole ring, a dibenzofuran ring, or a dibenzothiophene ring is preferred from the viewpoint of controlling the color of the phosphorescence of the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] to an orange color to a red color.

It should be noted that in the present invention, the aromatic ring and aromatic heterocycle each represented by the ring A_1 may further have a substituent selected from: an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms selected from a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 2-methylpropyl group, and a tert-butyl group; an aralkyl group such as a benzyl group or a phenethyl group; an aryl group such as a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, a terphenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, a phenanthrenyl group, an anthracenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, a pyrenyl group, a dimethylphenyl group, or a difluorophenyl group; a heterocyclic group such as a thienyl group, a furanyl group, an imidazolyl group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a pyridyl group, a benzothiophenyl group, a benzofuran group, a quinolyl

group, a carbazolyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, a dibenzothienyl group, or a dimethylpyridyl group; a substituted amino group such as a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, or a ditolylamino group; an alkoxy group such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, or a tert-butoxy group; an aryloxy group such as a phenoxy group; a halogen atom such as a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom; a trifluoromethyl group; and a cyano group. Here, the alkyl group that the aromatic ring and aromatic heterocycle each represented by the ring A_1 may further have also includes an alkyl group in which a hydrogen atom in the substituent is substituted with a fluorine atom.

In the general formula [2], R_1 to R_8 each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group.

Examples of the alkyl group represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 include a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 2-methylpropyl group, and a tert-butyl group.

Examples of the aralkyl group represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 include a benzyl group and a phenethyl group.

Examples of the aryl group represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 include a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, a terphenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, a phenanthrenyl group, an anthracenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, and a pyrenyl group.

Examples of the heterocyclic group represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 include a thienyl group, a furanyl group, an imidazolyl group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a pyridyl group, a benzothienyl group, a benzofuranyl group, a quinolyl group, a carbazolyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, and a dibenzothienyl group.

Examples of the substituted amino group represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 include a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, and a ditolylamino group.

Examples of the alkoxy group represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 include a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, and a tert-butoxy group.

An example of the aryloxy group represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 is a phenoxy group.

Examples of the halogen atom represented by any one of R_1 to R_8 include fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine atoms.

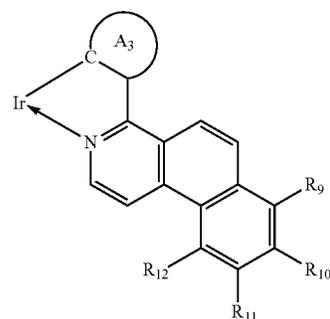
Substituents represented by R_1 to R_8 , in particular, substituents represented by R_5 to R_8 are each preferably an alkyl group or a phenyl group. This is because an alkyl group and a phenyl group each weaken an intermolecular interaction between complex molecules such as π - π stacking. In addition, an intermolecular interaction when alkyl groups or phenyl groups are brought close to each other is weak, and hence the intermolecular interaction between the complex molecules is not strengthened. It should be noted that a phenyl group has a small ring plane and hence acts as an alienating group rather than causing the π - π stacking.

It should be noted that upon introduction of alkyl groups as the substituents represented by R_1 to R_8 , the alkyl groups to be introduced are each preferably an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms because the sublimability of the complex itself reduces when the number of carbon atoms is excessively large. The same holds true for alkyl groups that can be incorporated into the ligands L_2 and L_3 .

In the general formula [2], R_1 to R_8 may be identical to or different from one another.

It should be noted that when any one of the substituents represented by R_1 to R_8 is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, or an aryloxy group, the substituent of interest may further have a substituent selected from: an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms selected from a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 2-methylpropyl group, and a tert-butyl group; an aralkyl group such as a benzyl group or a phenethyl group, an aryl group such as a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, a terphenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, a phenanthrenyl group, an anthracenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, or a pyrenyl group; a heterocyclic group such as a thienyl group, a furanyl group, an imidazolyl group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a pyridyl group, a benzothienyl group, a benzofuranyl group, a quinolyl group, a carbazolyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, or a dibenzothienyl group; a substituted amino group such as a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, or a ditolylamino group; an alkoxy group such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, or a tert-butoxy group; an aryloxy group such as a phenoxy group; a halogen atom such as a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom; and a cyano group. Here, the alkyl group that the substituents represented by R_1 to R_8 may further have also includes an alkyl group in which a hydrogen atom in the substituent is substituted with a fluorine atom.

The partial structure represented by the general formula [2] is preferably a partial structure represented the following general formula [4].



[4]

In the general formula [4], a ring A_3 is a ring structure selected from a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, a fluorene ring, a phenanthrene ring, a carbazole ring, a dibenzofuran ring, and a dibenzothiophene ring.

It should be noted that the ring A_3 may further have a substituent selected from: an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms selected from a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 2-methylpropyl group, and a tert-butyl group; an aralkyl group such as a benzyl group or a phenethyl group; an aryl group such as a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, a terphenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, a phenanthrenyl group, an anthracenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, or a pyrenyl group; a heterocyclic group such as a thienyl

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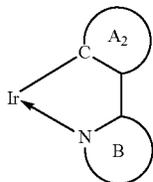
group, a furanyl group, an imidazolyl group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a pyridyl group, a benzothienyl group, a benzofuranyl group, a quinolyl group, a carbazolyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, or a dibenzothienyl group; a substituted amino group such as a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, or a ditolylamino group; an alkoxy group such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, or a tert-butoxy group; an aryloxy group such as a phenoxy group; a halogen atom such as a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom; and a cyano group.

In the general formula [4], R_9 to R_{12} each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a phenyl group, and may be identical to or different from one another.

Specific examples of the alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms and phenyl group each represented by any one of R_9 to R_{12} are same as the specific examples of R_1 to R_8 in the general formula [2].

It should be noted that when any one of the substituents each represented by R_9 to R_{12} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or the corresponding substituent may further have a substituent selected from: an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms selected from a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 2-methylpropyl group, and a tert-butyl group; an aralkyl group such as a benzyl group or a phenethyl group; an aryl group such as a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, a terphenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, a phenanthrenyl group, an anthracenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, or a pyrenyl group; a heterocyclic group such as a thienyl group, a furanyl group, an imidazolyl group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a pyridyl group, a benzothienyl group, a benzofuranyl group, a quinolyl group, a carbazolyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, or a dibenzothienyl group; a substituted amino group such as a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, or a ditolylamino group; an alkoxy group such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, or a tert-butoxy group; an aryloxy group such as a phenoxy group; a halogen atom such as a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom; and a cyano group.

In the general formula [1], a partial structure IrL_2 is a partial structure represented by the following general formula [3].



In the general formula [3], a ring A_2 represents an aromatic ring or an aromatic heterocycle. Specific examples of the aromatic ring represented by the ring A_2 are the same as the specific examples of the ring A_1 in the formula [2]. The aromatic ring is preferably a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, a fluorene ring, or a phenanthrene ring because any such ring can form a stable complex with trivalent iridium.

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In addition, specific examples of the aromatic heterocycle represented by the ring A_2 are the same as the specific examples of the ring A_1 in the formula [2]. The aromatic heterocycle is preferably a carbazole ring, a dibenzofuran ring, or a dibenzothiophene ring because any such heterocycle can form a stable complex with trivalent iridium.

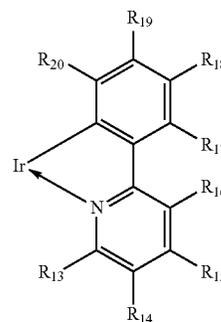
It should be noted that the ring A_2 may further have a substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group. Here, specific examples of the alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, the aralkyl group, the aryl group, the heterocyclic group, the substituted amino group, the alkoxy group, the aryloxy group, and the halogen atom each serving as a substituent that the ring A_2 may further have are the same as the specific examples in the ring A_1 in the formula [2].

In the general formula [3], a ring B represents a nitrogen-containing aromatic heterocycle.

Examples of the nitrogen-containing aromatic heterocycle represented by the ring B include, but, of course, not limited to, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyrazine ring, a triazine ring, a quinoline ring, an isoquinoline ring, a benzo[f]quinoline ring, a benzo[h]quinoline ring, a benzo[f]isoquinoline ring, a benzo[h]isoquinoline ring, an oxazole ring, a benzo[d]oxazole ring, a benzo[d]thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, and a pyrazole ring. Of those, a pyridine ring, a quinoline ring, a benzo[f]quinoline ring, a benzo[h]quinoline ring, a benzo[f]isoquinoline ring, a benzo[h]isoquinoline ring, an oxazole ring, a benzo[d]oxazole ring, a benzo[d]thiazole ring, or an imidazole ring because any such heterocycle can form a stable complex with trivalent iridium.

It should be noted that in the general formula [3], the ring B may further have a substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group. Here, specific examples of the alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, the aralkyl group, the aryl group, the heterocyclic group, the substituted amino group, the alkoxy group, the aryloxy group, and the halogen atom each serving as a substituent that the ring B may further have are same as the specific examples in the ring A_1 in the formula [2].

A partial structure represented by the following general formula [5] is preferred as the partial structure represented by the general formula [3].



[3]

[5]

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In the general formula [5], R_{13} to R_{20} each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group. The substituents represented by R_{13} to R_{20} may be identical to or different from one another.

It should be noted that specific examples of the alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, aralkyl group, aryl group, heterocyclic group, substituted amino group, alkoxy group, aryloxy group, and halogen atom represented by R_{13} to R_{20} are same as the specific examples of R_1 to R_8 in the general formula [2]. In addition, when any one of the substituents represented by R_{13} to R_{20} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, or an aryloxy group, the corresponding substituent may further have a substituent selected from: an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms selected from a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 2-methylpropyl group, and a tert-butyl group; an aralkyl group such as a benzyl group or a phenethyl group; an aryl group such as a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, a terphenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, a phenanthrenyl group, an anthracenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, or a pyrenyl group; a heterocyclic group such as a thienyl group, a furanyl group, an imidazolyl group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a pyridyl group, a benzothienyl group, a benzofuranyl group, a quinolyl group, a carbazolyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, or a dibenzothienyl group; a substituted amino group such as a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, or a ditolylamino group; an alkoxy group such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, or a tert-butoxy group; an aryloxy group such as a phenoxy group; a halogen atom such as a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom; and a cyano group.

In the general formula [5], R_{13} to R_{20} each preferably represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a phenyl group. This is because an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, and a phenyl group are each a substituent that reduces an intermolecular interaction between molecules of the complex. It should be noted that when any one of R_{13} to R_{20} represents an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a phenyl group, the corresponding substituent may further have an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group.

In the present invention, the ligand L_1 and the ligand L_2 are different from each other and are not identical to each other.

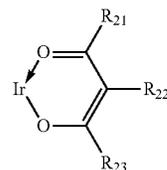
In the general formula [1], L_3 represents a monovalent bidentate ligand having an atom that forms a covalent bond with iridium and is selected from N, O, S, and P, and an atom that forms a coordinate bond with iridium and is selected from N, O, S, and P. In the present invention, the atom that forms the covalent bond with iridium and atom that forms the coordinate bond with iridium in L_3 may be identical to or different from each other.

Examples of the ligand represented by L_3 include β -diketonate, picolinate, 2-aminoethanethiolate, 2-aminobenzenethiolate, and 2-(diphenylphosphino)phenolate. However, the ligand is not limited to the compound group as long

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as the ligand forms a stable complex with trivalent iridium and does not largely reduce the emission quantum yield of the complex itself.

In the present invention, a partial structure IrL_3 is preferably a structure represented by the following general formula [6].



[6]

In the general formula [6], R_{21} to R_{23} each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group, and may be identical to or different from one another.

It should be noted that specific examples of the alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, aralkyl group, aryl group, heterocyclic group, substituted amino group, alkoxy group, and aryloxy group represented by R_{21} to R_{23} are same as the specific examples of R_1 to R_8 in the general formula [2]. In addition, when any one of the substituents represented by R_{21} to R_{23} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, or an aryloxy group, the corresponding substituent may further have a substituent selected from: an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms selected from a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 2-methylpropyl group, and a tert-butyl group; an aralkyl group such as a benzyl group or a phenethyl group; an aryl group such as a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, a terphenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, a phenanthrenyl group, an anthracenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, or a pyrenyl group; a heterocyclic group such as a thienyl group, a furanyl group, an imidazolyl group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a pyridyl group, a benzothienyl group, a benzofuranyl group, a quinolyl group, a carbazolyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, or a dibenzothienyl group; a substituted amino group such as a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, or a ditolylamino group; an alkoxy group such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, or a tert-butoxy group; an aryloxy group such as a phenoxy group; a halogen atom such as a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom; and a cyano group.

In the general formula [6], R_{21} to R_{23} each preferably represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms. It should be noted that when any one of the substituents represented by R_{21} to R_{23} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, the corresponding substituent may further have an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group. R_{21} to R_{23} each more preferably represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms. When R_{21} to

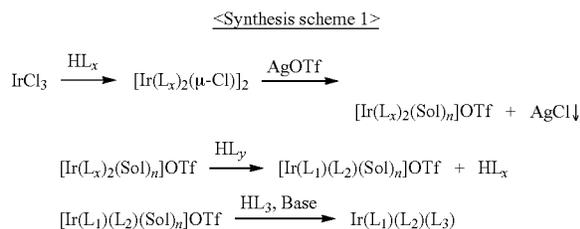
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R₂₃ each represent a hydrogen atom, its molecular weight reduces and hence the sublimability of the complex itself can be improved. In addition, when R₂₁ to R₂₃ each represent an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an interaction between molecules of the complex reduces and hence the sublimability of the complex itself can be improved.

(Method of Synthesizing Iridium Complex)

Next, a method of synthesizing the iridium complex of the present invention is described. The iridium complex of the present invention is synthesized by, for example, a synthesis scheme 1 shown below.

<Synthesis Scheme 1>



(L_x represents L₁ or L₂, Sol represents a solvent molecule, n represents an integer, when the solvent molecule is a monodentate ligand, n represents 2, when the solvent molecule is a ligand that is bidentate or more, n represents 1, when L_x represents L₁, L_y represents L₂, and when L_x represents L₂, L_y represents L₁.)

A synthesis process in the synthesis scheme 1 is described below.

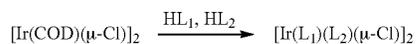
First, a triflate form of an iridium complex having two L₁'s or L₂'s is synthesized according to a method described in Patent Literature 4.

Next, the triflate form of the iridium complex and a compound HL₂ or HL₁ including a ligand are heated in a solution. Thus, ligand exchange is performed. It should be noted that upon performance of a ligand exchange reaction, the concentration of the solution is properly adjusted before the reaction is performed because a form to which three luminous ligands coordinate is produced when the concentration is high. It should be noted that upon performance of the ligand exchange reaction, a reaction check is desirably performed as appropriate by taking out part of the solution and causing the solution to react with HL₃. In addition, while the reaction check is performed as appropriate, the heating is continued until the concentration of a product shows no change.

Next, the iridium complex of the present invention can be synthesized by adding HL₃ and a base to the reaction solution. It should be noted that the resultant may contain Ir(L₁)₂(L₃) or Ir(L₂)₂(L₃) as a by-product and hence the by-product needs to be appropriately removed by column purification.

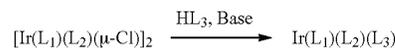
Meanwhile, the iridium complex of the present invention can be synthesized according to a method described in Non Patent Literature 1. The method is specifically a method of synthesizing the complex by a synthesis scheme 2 shown below.

<Synthesis Scheme 2>



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-continued



A synthesis process in the synthesis scheme 2 is described below.

First, [Ir(COD)(μ-Cl)]₂ (COD: 1,5-cyclooctadiene), which is an iridium complex, is used as a starting raw material, and HL₁ and HL₂ are caused to react with the iridium complex simultaneously. Thus, the reaction product is obtained in the form of a mixture containing a chloro-crosslinked dimer ([Ir(L₁)(L₂)(μ-Cl)]₂) having the ligands L₁ and L₂.

Next, the mixture and HL₃ are caused to react with each other under a basic condition. A crude product produced by the reaction is subjected to column purification to provide the iridium complex of the present invention.

Here, the employment of the second production method typically provides, as a main component, a complex in which nitrogen atoms in L₁ and L₂, and iridium are coaxially placed like N—Ir—N. At this time, a structural isomer is sometimes produced as a by-product but even a mixture containing the isomer as a by-product is used in some cases in terms of cost.

In addition, when the complex is obtained as a mixture of enantiomers, the mixture may be used without being treated or may be subjected to optical resolution depending on intended purposes.

(3) Metal Complex Compound Serving as Host

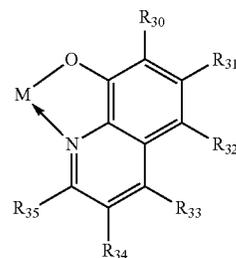
Next, the metal complex compound to be used as the host for the emission layer of the organic light-emitting element of the present invention is described. The metal complex compound serving as the host to be incorporated into the organic light-emitting element of the present invention is specifically a compound represented by the following general formula [9].



In the formula [9], M represents a divalent metal atom selected from Zn, Be, Mg, Ca, Co, and Ni. Of those, Zn, Be, or Mg is preferred.

In the formula [9], L and L' each represent a bidentate ligand. It should be noted that L and L' may be identical to or different from each other.

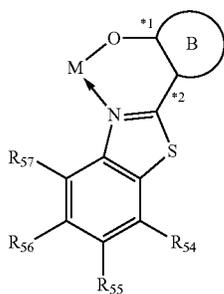
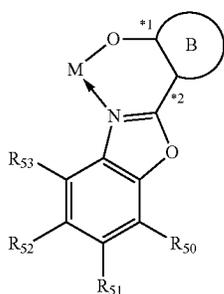
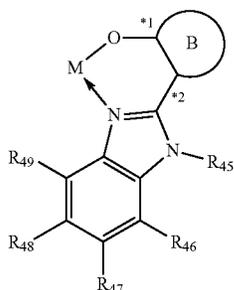
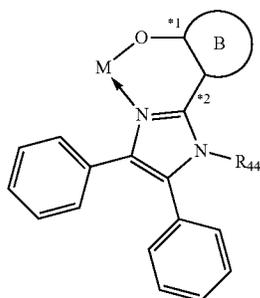
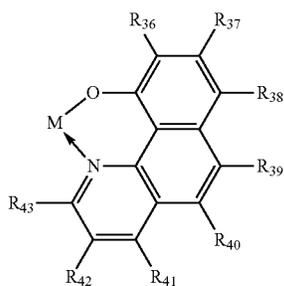
In the formula [9], ML and ML' each represent any one of partial structures represented by the following general formulae [10] to [15].



[10]

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In the formulae [10] to [15], R₃₀ to R₅₇ each represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an aralkyl group, a substituted amino group, a substituted or

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unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group.

- [11] Specific examples of the halogen atom represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ include fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine atoms.

- [12] The alkyl group represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ is preferably an alkyl group having 1 or more and 6 or less carbon atoms. Specific examples of the alkyl group having 1 or more and 6 or less carbon atoms include a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an i-propyl group, an n-butyl group, an i-butyl group, a sec-butyl group, a tert-butyl group, an n-pentyl group, an i-pentyl group, a tert-pentyl group, a neopentyl group, an n-hexyl group, and a cyclohexyl group. Of those alkyl groups, a methyl group or a tert-butyl group is particularly preferred.

- [13] Specific examples of the alkoxy group represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ include, but, of course, not limited to, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an i-propoxy group, an n-butoxy group, a tert-butoxy group, a 2-ethyl-octyloxy group, and a benzyloxy group. Of those alkoxy groups, a methoxy group or an ethoxy group is preferred.

- [14] Examples of the aryloxy group represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ include, but, of course, not limited to, a phenoxy group, a 4-tert-butylphenoxy group, and a thienyloxy group.

- [15] An example of the aralkyl group represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ is, but, of course, not limited to, a benzyl group.

- Examples of the substituted amino group represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ include an N-methylamino group, an N-ethylamino group, an N,N-dimethylamino group, an N,N-diethylamino group, an N-methyl-N-ethylamino group, an N-benzylamino group, an N-methyl-N-benzylamino group, an N,N-dibenzylamino group, an anilino group, an N,N-diphenylamino group, an N,N-dinaphthylamino group, an N,N-difluorenylamino group, an N-phenyl-N-tolylamino group, an N,N-ditolylamino group, an N-methyl-N-phenylamino group, an N,N-dianisoylamino group, an N-mesityl-N-phenylamino group, an N,N-dimesitylamino group, an N-phenyl-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)amino group, and an N-phenyl-N-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)amino group.

- Specific examples of the aromatic hydrocarbon group represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ include, but, of course, not limited to, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a phenanthryl group, an anthryl group, a fluorenyl group, a biphenylenyl group, an acenaphthylenyl group, a chrysenyl group, a pyrenyl group, a triphenylenyl group, a picenyl group, a fluoranthenyl group, a perylenyl group, a naphthacenyl group, a biphenyl group, and a terphenyl group. Of those aromatic hydrocarbon groups, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a fluorenyl group, or a biphenyl group is preferred, and a phenyl group is more preferred.

- Specific examples of the heteroaromatic group represented by any one of R₃₀ to R₅₇ include, but, of course, not limited to, a thienyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a pyridyl group, an indolyl group, a quinolyl group, an isoquinolyl group, a naphthyridinyl group, an acridinyl group, a phenanthrolinyl group, a carbazolyl group, a benzo[a]carbazolyl group, a benzo[b]carbazolyl group, a benzo[c]carbazolyl group, a phenazinyl group, a phenoxazinyl group, a phenothiazinyl group, a benzothiophenyl group, a dibenzothiophenyl group, a benzofuranyl group, a dibenzofuranyl group, an oxazolyl group, and an oxadiazolyl group.

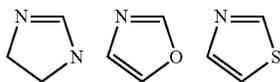
- Examples of the substituent that the alkyl group, the aryl group, and the heterocyclic group each may further have include: alkyl groups such as a methyl group, an ethyl group, and a propyl group; aralkyl groups such as a benzyl group; aryl groups such as a phenyl group, a biphenyl group, and a tetrakis(9,9-dimethylfluorenyl) group; heterocyclic groups

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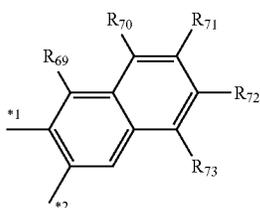
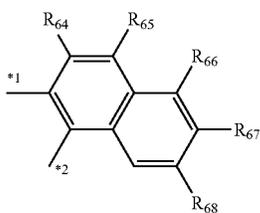
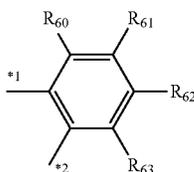
such as a pyridyl group and a pyrrolyl group; amino groups such as a dimethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a dibenzylamino group, a diphenylamino group, and a ditolylamino group; alkoxy groups such as a methoxyl group, an ethoxyl group, and a propoxyl group; aryloxy groups such as a phenoxy group; halogen atoms such as fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine atoms; and a cyano group.

The substituents represented in any one of the formulae [10] to [15], i.e., R_{30} to R_{57} each preferably represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a phenyl group that may be substituted with an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

In the formulae [11] to [15], *1 represents a bonding position with an oxygen atom and *2 represents a bonding position with a carbon atom sandwiched between heteroatoms in a heterocyclic five-membered ring skeleton represented below.



In the formulae [12] to [15], a ring B is any one of cyclic structures represented by the following general formulae [16] to [18].



In the formulae [16] to [18], R_{60} to R_{73} each represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a substituted amino group, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group.

Specific examples of the halogen atom, alkyl group, alkoxy group, aryloxy group, aralkyl group, substituted amino group, aromatic hydrocarbon group, and heteroaromatic group represented by R_{60} to R_{73} , and the substituent

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that the alkyl group, the aromatic hydrocarbon group, and the heteroaromatic group each may further have are the same as the specific examples in R_{30} to R_{57} in the general formulae [10] to [15].

The substituents represented in any one of the formulae [16] to [18], i.e., R_{60} to R_{73} each preferably represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a phenyl group that may be substituted with an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

By the way, in the organic light-emitting element according to this embodiment, the basic skeleton of each of both the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] and the metal complex represented by the general formula [9] can be appropriately provided with a substituent, which can change an emission wavelength, a band gap, an HOMO-LUMO, or the like. It should be noted that the provision of the basic skeleton with an excessively large number of substituents may reduce the sublimability of the complex itself.

From the viewpoint, R_1 to R_8 in the general formula [1] each preferably represent a substituent having a molecular weight of 100 or less such as an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a phenyl group, a pyridyl group, a fluorine group, or a cyano group.

(4) Actions Exhibited by Host and Guest

Next, actions exhibited by the host and guest to be incorporated into the emission layer in the organic light-emitting element of the present invention are described.

(4-1) Action Exhibited by Guest

The iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] as the guest is a complex compound formed of trivalent iridium and three kinds of ligands (L_1 , L_2 , and L_3) that are not identical to one another in structure. In the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1], the three kinds of ligands in the complex are different from one another particularly from a structural viewpoint. Accordingly, the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] becomes a complex having no symmetry. Therefore, the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] has low crystallinity in a solid state and an energy for bonding molecules of the complex is small. As a result, the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] has high sublimability. It should be noted that details about the sublimability of the complex are described later.

First, the three kinds of ligands of the iridium complex are described.

Of the three kinds of ligands, L_1 and L_2 each have a carbon atom that forms a covalent bond with iridium and a nitrogen atom that forms a coordinate bond with iridium. In addition, L_1 and L_2 each serve as a ligand that coordinates to iridium to form a five-membered ring formed of iridium and a partial skeleton $N-C-C-C$, thereby affecting the phosphorescence characteristics of the complex. That is, the ligands L_1 and L_2 are each a ligand called a luminous ligand. On the other hand, L_3 is called an auxiliary ligand because of its small contribution to the phosphorescence characteristics, though L_3 is a monovalent bidentate ligand as in L_1 and L_2 .

First, L_1 as a luminous ligand is described. L_1 is a ligand having a benzo[f]quinoline skeleton as a basic skeleton and the ring A_1 that is an aromatic ring or an aromatic hetero-

cycle. The selection of a predetermined aromatic ring or aromatic heterocycle as the ring A_1 causes the partial structure IrL_1 including L_1 to form a triplet energy level that generates phosphorescence having a wavelength equal to or longer than that of an orange color. In the present invention, the phosphorescence having a wavelength equal to or longer than that of an orange color refers to such light that the maximum peak wavelength of a phosphorescence spectrum is 580 nm or more.

Here, proper selection of the ring A_1 causes the partial structure IrL_1 to form a triplet energy level that generates phosphorescence whose color ranges from an orange color to a red color. In the present invention, the phosphorescence whose color ranges from an orange color to a red color refers to such light that the maximum peak wavelength of a phosphorescence spectrum is 580 nm or more and 650 nm or less. Phosphorescence having a wavelength in the region can be suitably applied to a display apparatus, a lighting apparatus, or an exposure light source for an image-forming apparatus of an electrophotographic system.

By the way, the benzo[f]quinoline skeleton in the ligand L_1 is liable to interact with a benzo[f]quinoline skeleton in an adjacent complex. That is, ring planes in the benzo[f]quinoline skeletons may overlap each other to cause π - π stacking. As a result, an energy for bonding molecules of the complex to each other increases to reduce the sublimability.

In order that the π - π stacking may be suppressed, the benzo[f]quinoline skeleton is preferably provided with a substituent as appropriate to inhibit the approach of the ring planes. In particular, a substituent (preferably an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenyl group) is introduced into a substituent bonded to a carbon atom distant from iridium out of the carbon atoms in the benzo[f]quinoline skeleton, specifically, any one of R_5 to R_8 in the general formula [2]. Thus, the approach of the ring planes can be additionally inhibited.

Next, the ligand L_2 is described. L_2 is a luminous ligand as in L_1 , and is a ligand formed of two kinds of ring structures, i.e., the ring A_2 and the ring B. The ring A_2 is appropriately selected from an aromatic ring and an aromatic heterocyclic group, and the ring B is appropriately selected from nitrogen-containing aromatic rings depending on desired purposes. Of those, a skeleton capable of forming a stable complex with trivalent iridium is preferred.

The iridium complex of the present invention generates only phosphorescence derived from a partial structure having the lower triplet energy level out of the partial structures IrL_1 and IrL_2 . This is because energy transfer from the partial structure having the higher triplet energy level to the partial structure having the lower triplet energy level occurs. Which partial structure is caused to emit phosphorescence can be appropriately selected depending on desired purposes.

Here, when the luminescent color is changed from an orange color to a red color, molecular design is preferably performed so that phosphorescence may be generated from the partial structure (IrL_1) including the benzo[f]quinoline skeleton. This is because the phosphorescence quantum yield of the complex having the partial structure IrL_1 is high as described in Patent Literature 5. On the other hand, when phosphorescence is extracted from the partial structure IrL_2 ,

the number of heteroatoms in the basic skeleton of each of the ring A_2 and the ring B is preferably as small as possible in consideration of the chemical stability of the ligand L_2 . This is because of the following reason: a carbon atom and a heteroatom are different from each other in electronegativity, and hence charge bias occurs in a bond between both the atoms and the decomposition of the bond by a chemical reaction is liable to occur. In addition, the molecular weight of the basic skeleton of each of the ring A_2 and the ring B is preferably as small as possible in consideration of the sublimability of the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1]. Therefore, in consideration of the number of heteroatoms in the basic skeleton of each of the ring A_2 and the ring B, and the molecular weight of the basic skeleton, a preferred aspect of the partial structure IrL_2 is such a structure that the ring A_2 is a benzene ring and the ring B is a pyridine ring, specifically, the partial structure represented by the general formula [5].

Next, the ligand L_3 is described. The ligand L_3 is not particularly limited as long as the ligand forms a stable complex with trivalent iridium and does not largely reduce the emission quantum yield. The ligand is preferably a ligand that is formed of a skeleton having a smaller molecular weight than those of the luminous ligands (L_1 and L_2), and that improves the sublimability of the complex. The ligand L_3 that satisfies the requirements is preferably β -diketonate, more preferably a ligand constituting the partial structure represented by the general formula [6].

Next, the sublimability of the iridium complex is described.

In the related art, when a complex having the partial structure IrL_1 is obtained, a complex including one kind of luminous ligand represented by the following general formula [7], or a complex including at least one luminous ligand represented by the following general formula [8] and at least one auxiliary ligand is general.

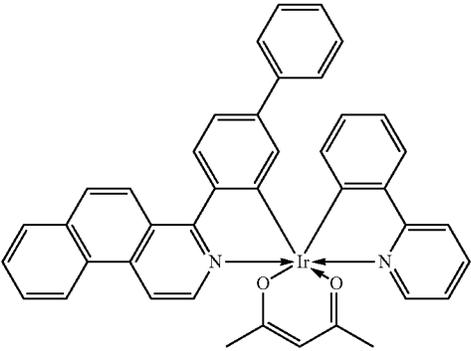
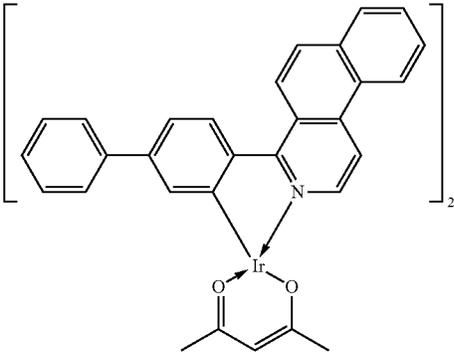
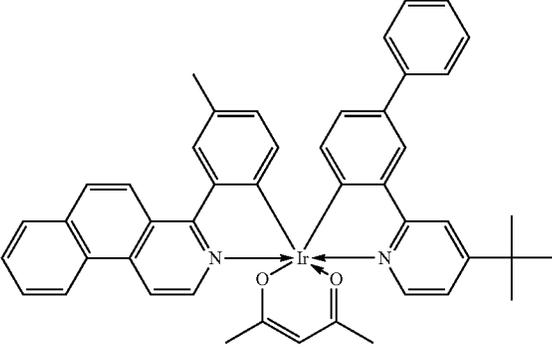
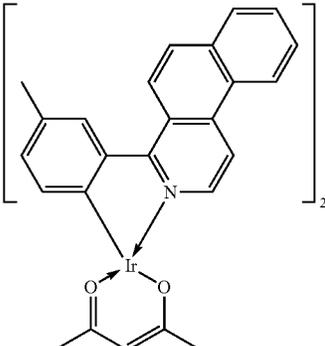


(L_1 represented in each of the formula [7] and the formula [8], and L_3 represented in the formula [8] are the same as L_1 and L_3 in the general formula [1], respectively.)

Here, the iridium complex represented by the general formula [8] is improved in sublimability as compared to the iridium complex represented by the general formula [7] because the auxiliary ligand (L_3) is used. In view of the foregoing, both the iridium complex of the present invention and the iridium complex represented by the general formula [8] were compared from the viewpoints of sublimability and heat stability.

Here, the molecular weight, sublimation temperature (T_{sub}), decomposition temperature (T_d), and difference between the decomposition temperature and the sublimation temperature ($\Delta T = T_d - T_{sub}$) of each of the iridium complex of the present invention and the iridium complex represented by the general formula [8] are shown.

TABLE 1

	Structure	Molecular weight	Sublimation temperature $T_{sub}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$	Decomposition temperature $T_d/^{\circ}\text{C.}$	$\Delta T/^{\circ}\text{C.}$
Exemplified Compound Ir-113		775.9	300	355	55
Complex 2		952.1	370	400	30
Exemplified Compound Ir-106		846.1	290	375	85
Complex 3		828.0	345	375	30

Here, the T_d is an indicator of the heat stability of the complex itself and the $\Delta T (=T_d - T_{sub})$ is an indicator of heat stability in a step involving sublimation. Therefore, the ΔT becomes more important than the T_d is upon sublimation

65 purification or vacuum deposition. This is because when the ΔT is small, thermal decomposition gradually progresses even at a temperature equal to or lower than the T_d upon sublimation to produce impurities. In addition, a small ΔT is

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industrially disadvantageous because the range of regulation of a sublimation rate is small, i.e., step tolerance is small.

Table 1 shows that the T_{sub} of Exemplified Compound Ir-113 is lower than that of Complex 2 by 70° C. and is hence largely improved in sublimability.

A first possible factor for the foregoing is a reduction in crystallinity. While Complex 2 has a C_2 symmetrical structure, Exemplified Compound Ir-113 is asymmetrical. Therefore, in Exemplified Compound Ir-113, π - π stacking caused by the approach of L_1 's in complex molecules adjacent to each other hardly occurs as compared to Complex 2.

A second possible factor therefor is the fact that the molecular weight of Exemplified Compound Ir-113 is smaller than the molecular weight of Complex 2 by 176.2. The molecular weight of Exemplified Compound Ir-113 was smaller than that of Complex 2, and hence its T_d was lower than that of Complex 2 by 45° C., while its ΔT ($T_d - T_{sub}$) was larger than that of Complex 2 by 25° C. In other words, it can be said that Exemplified Compound Ir-113 is improved not only in sublimability but also in heat stability at the time of a sublimation operation.

On the other hand, the T_{sub} of Exemplified Compound Ir-106 is lower than that of Complex 3 by 55° C. despite the fact that its molecular weight is larger than that of Complex 3 by 18.1. The foregoing means that an intermolecular interaction between complex molecules significantly reduced. A possible factor for the foregoing is the fact that the ligand L_2 , i.e., a phenyl group and tert-butyl group introduced into 2-phenylpyridine as well as the asymmetry of the complex itself inhibit the intermolecular interaction between the complex molecules.

In addition, the ΔT ($T_d - T_{sub}$) of Exemplified Compound Ir-106 was larger than that of Complex 3 by 55° C. because values for the T_d 's of both the materials were the same. Accordingly, Exemplified Compound Ir-106 is a ligand largely improved in heat stability.

As described above, the iridium complex of the present invention is reduced in crystallinity and improved in sublimability because the complex has three kinds of ligands structurally different from one another to become an asymmetrical complex. Further, the degree of freedom in molecular design of the complex can be increased as long as the complex has a predetermined partial structure. Specifically, the complex can be additionally improved in sublimability and heat stability as compared to a conventional iridium complex by reducing its molecular weight or introducing a substituent.

(4-2) Action Exhibited by Host

The iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] to be incorporated as the guest in the organic light-emitting element of the present invention has a phenylbenzo[f]isoquinoline skeleton. The conjugate plane of the π orbital of the phenylbenzo[f]isoquinoline skeleton is extended as compared to a phenylquinoline skeleton or phenylisoquinoline skeleton as the basic skeleton of a ligand of a conventional and typical red light-emitting material because a benzene ring condenses to quinoline. As a result, an interaction with a material (especially the host) near the light-emitting material is liable to occur, with the result that the light-emitting material captures the charge of the host to form a radical state or form an exciplex with the host. Thus, the light-emitting efficiency or durability of the organic light-emitting element itself may be liable to reduce.

Therefore, in order that a situation where the light-emitting material is excessively brought into a radical state may be avoided, a difference in energy level between the HOMO and LUMO of the host is preferably made smaller

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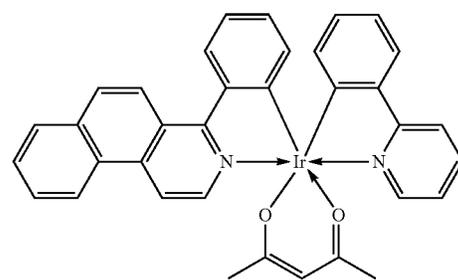
than that between the HOMO and LUMO of the light-emitting material. That is, a host having a small $\Delta S-T$ (difference between the lowest singlet energy level and the lowest triplet energy level), and a small band gap is preferred.

In addition, the emission peak wavelength of the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] to be used as the guest mainly falls within the range of 580 nm to 650 nm (1.9 eV to 2.1 eV in terms of the lowest triplet energy level (T_1)). Therefore, the T_1 energy of the host needs to be made higher than that of the guest.

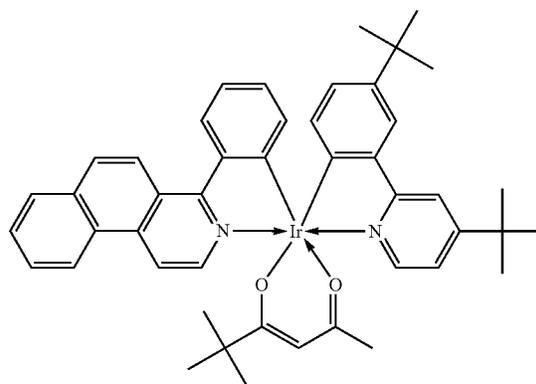
In general, the $\Delta S-T$ of a metal complex is small owing to an influence of a spin-orbit interaction. In view of the foregoing, the light-emitting material to be used as a constituent material for the organic light-emitting element of the present invention preferably uses the metal complex represented by the general formula [9] as the host.

(5) Specific Examples of Iridium Complex

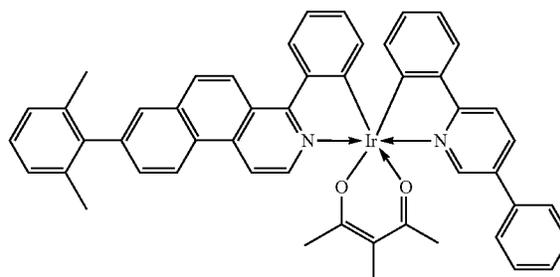
Specific examples of the iridium complex serving as the guest are shown below.



Ir-101



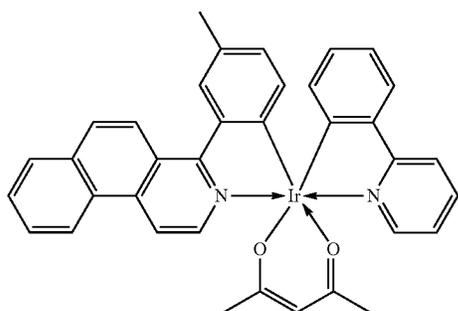
Ir-102



Ir-103

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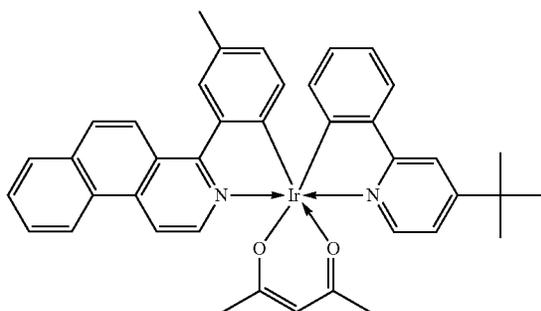


Ir-104

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Ir-105 15



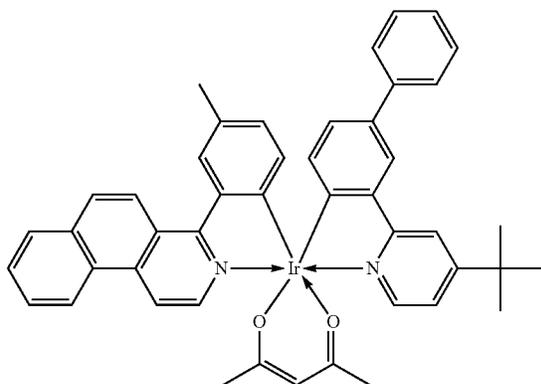
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Ir-106

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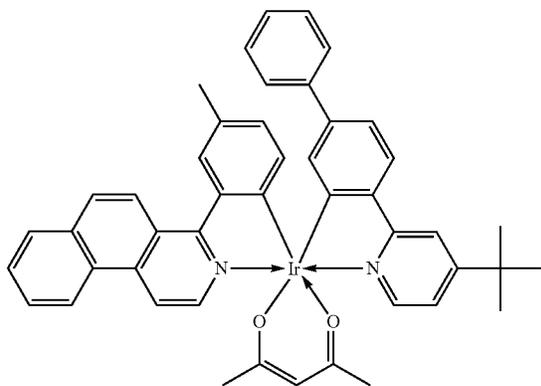


Ir-107

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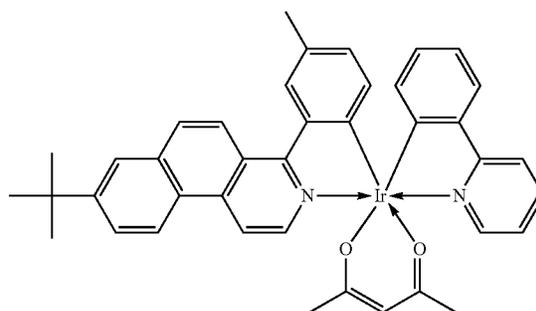
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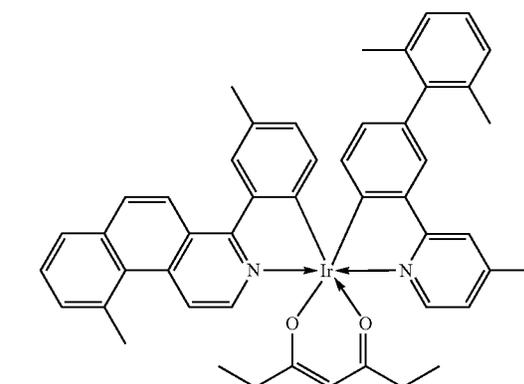
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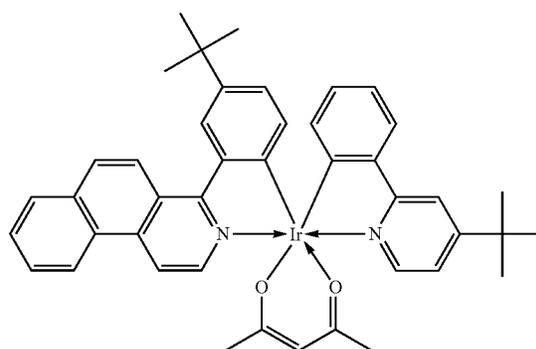


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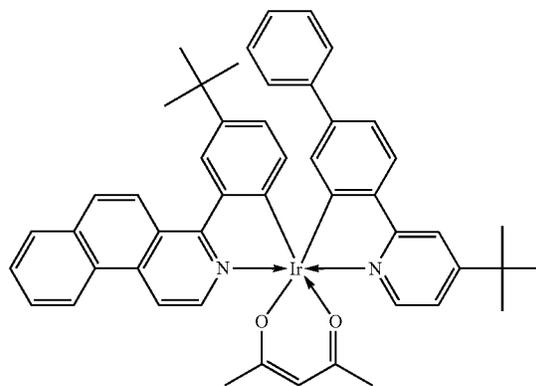
Ir-109



Ir-110



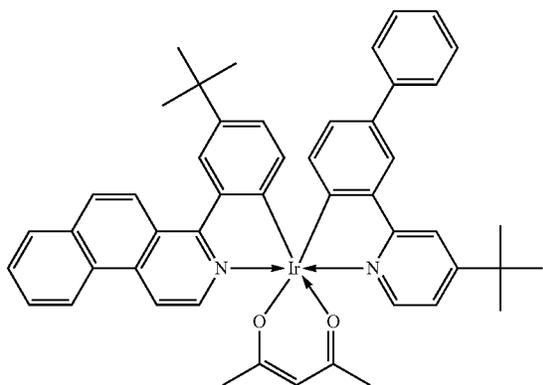
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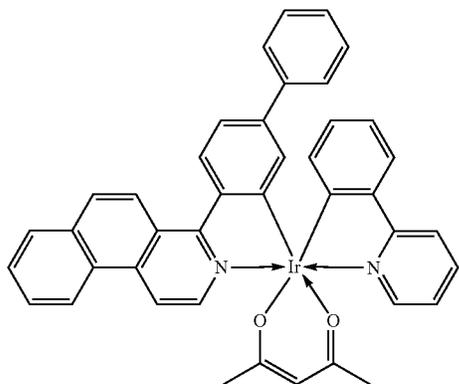
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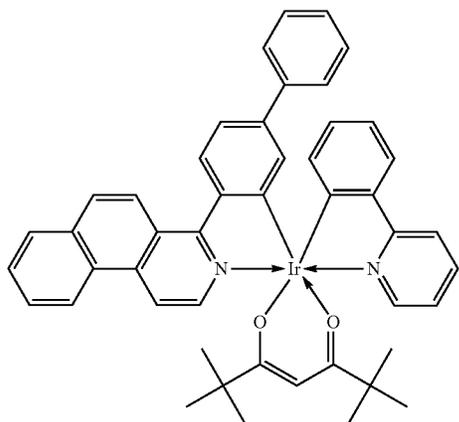
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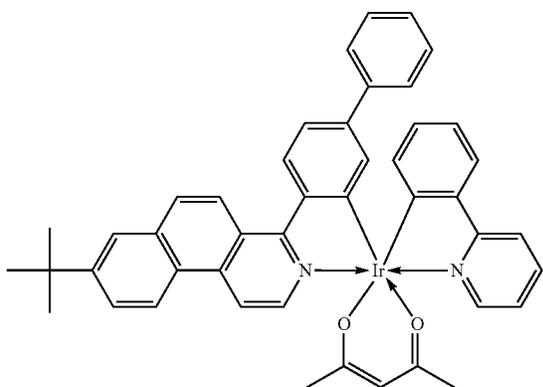
Ir-113



Ir-114



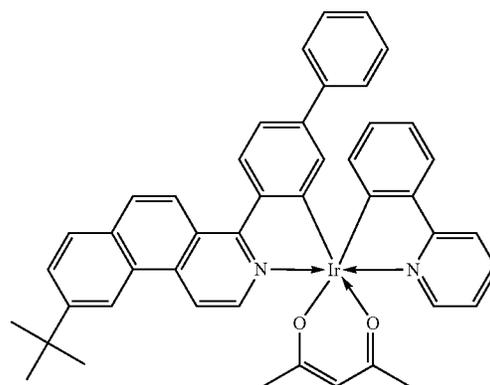
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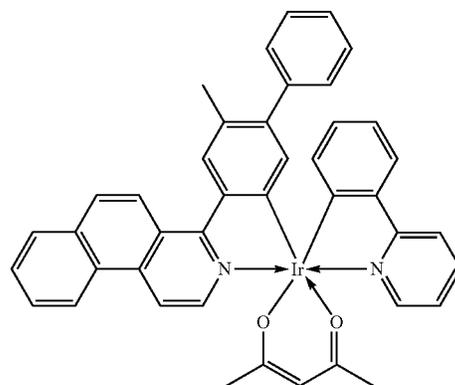
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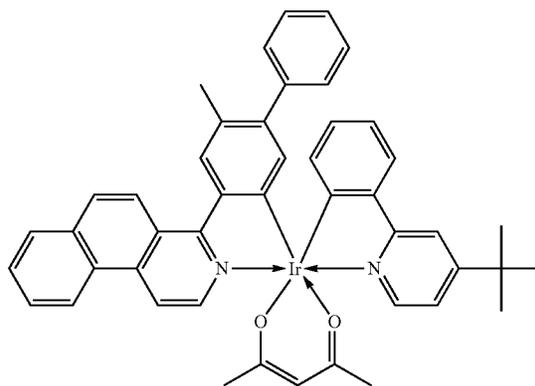
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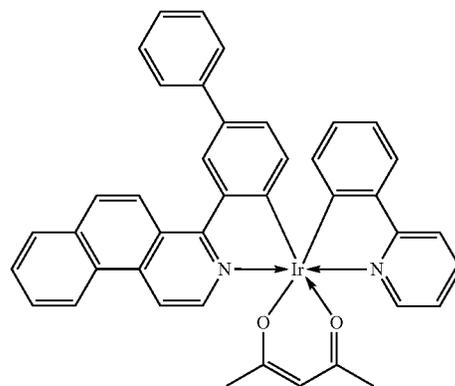
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Ir-118

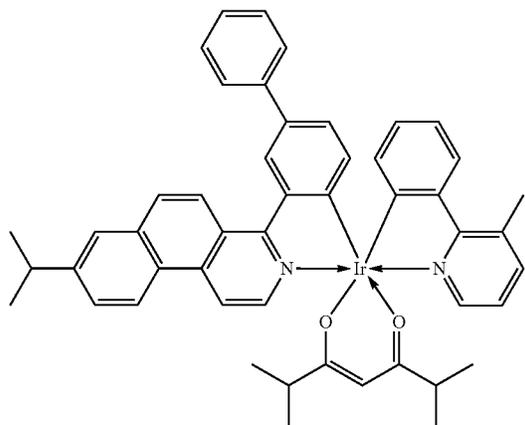


Ir-119



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Ir-120



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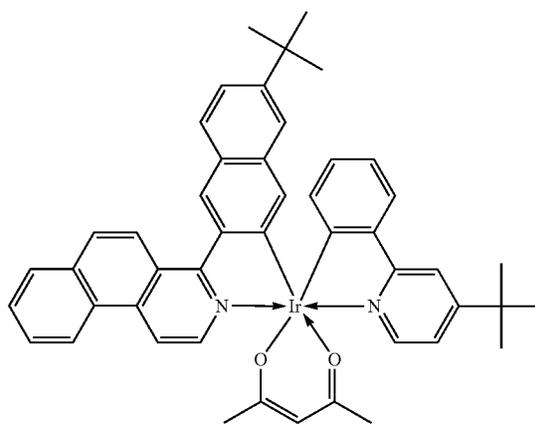
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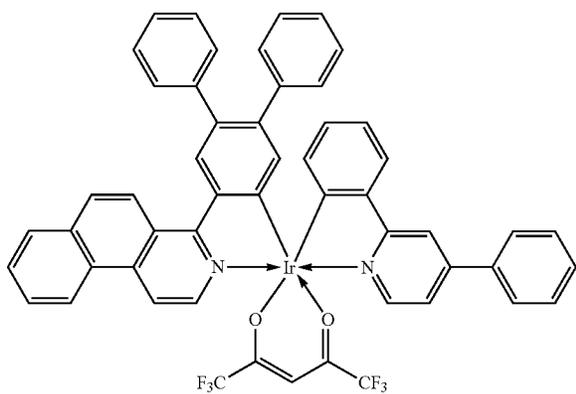
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Ir-123



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Ir-121



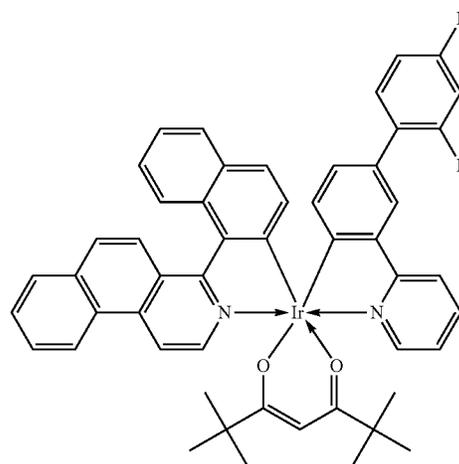
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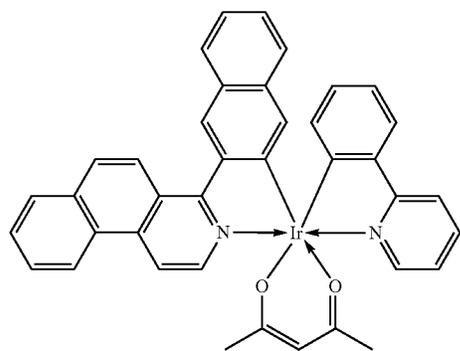
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Ir-124



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Ir-122

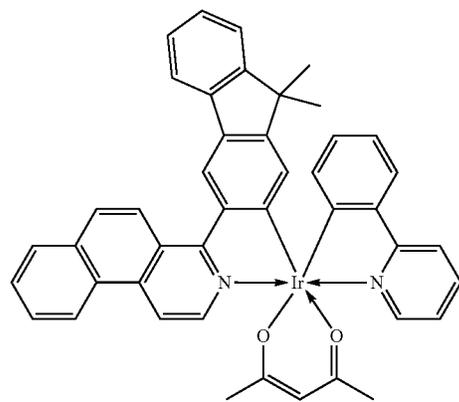


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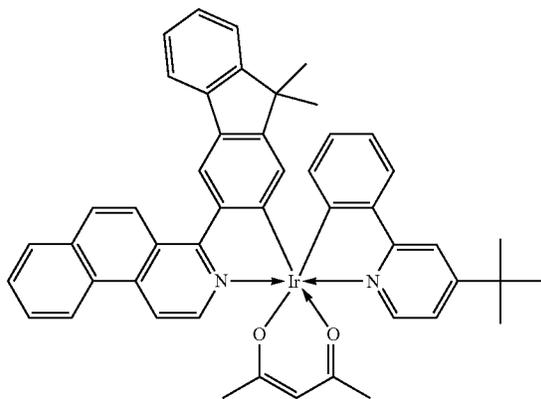
Ir-125



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Ir-126



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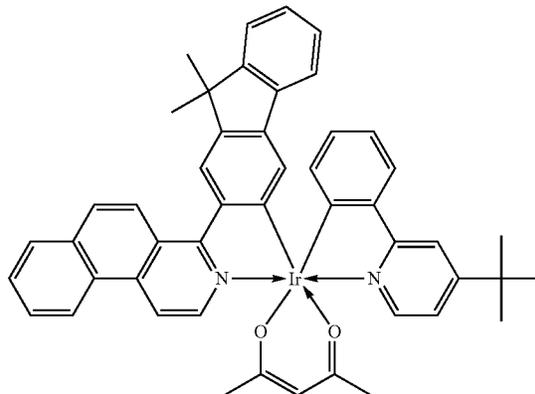
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Ir-129



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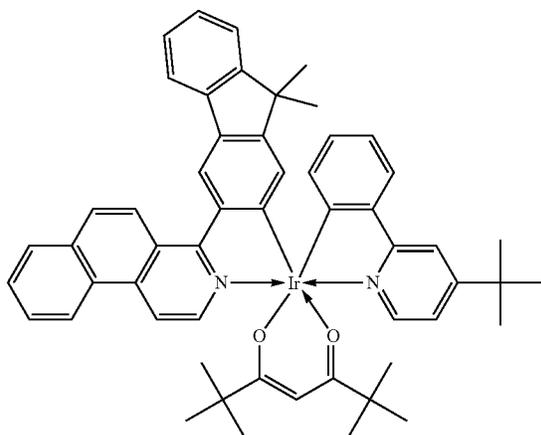
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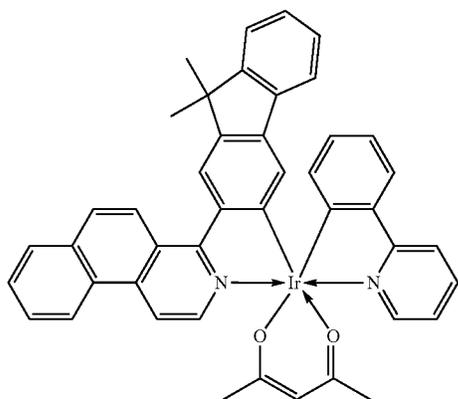


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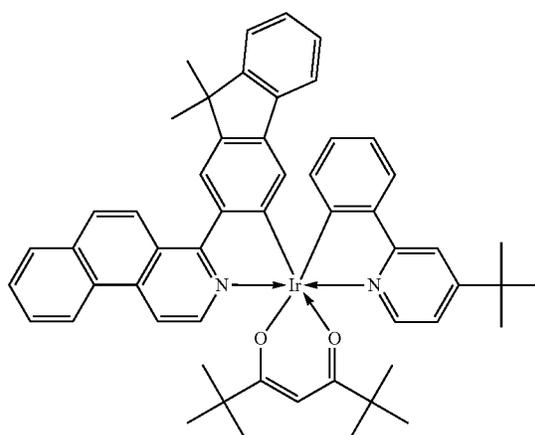
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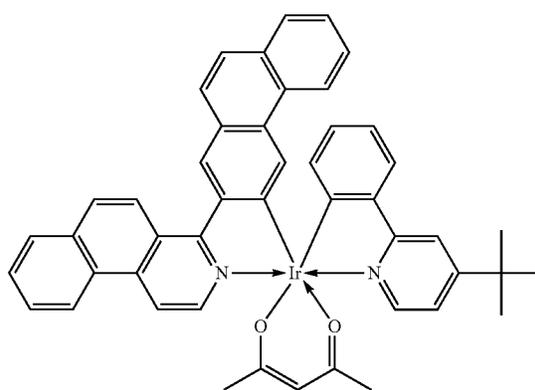
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Ir-130

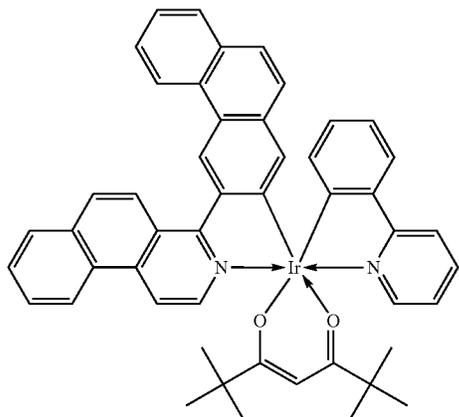


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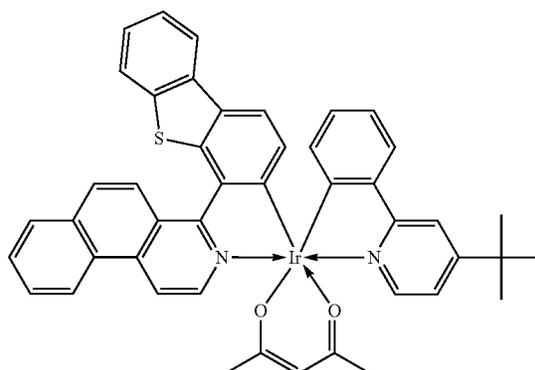
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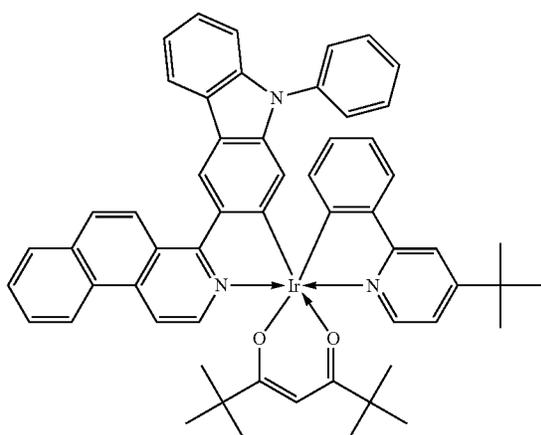
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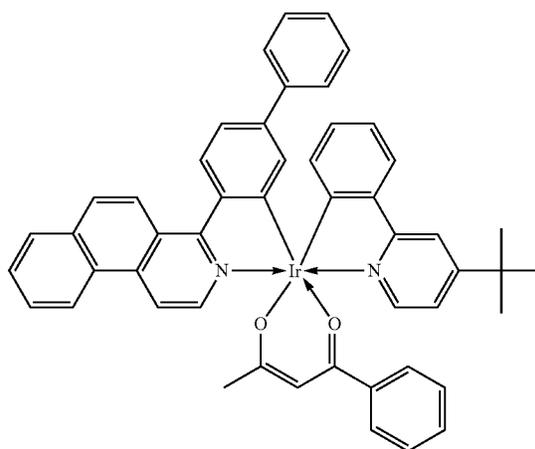
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Ir-136



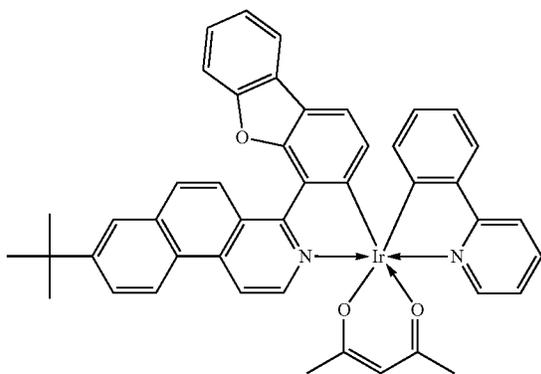
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Ir-201



Ir-134

Ir-202



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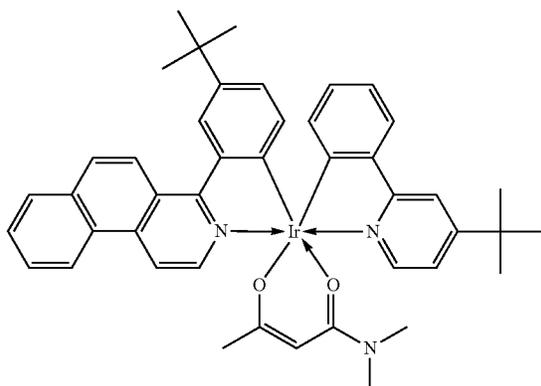
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Ir-203



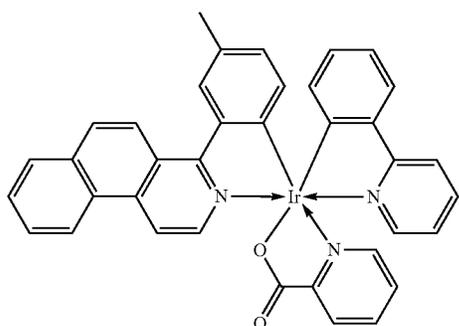
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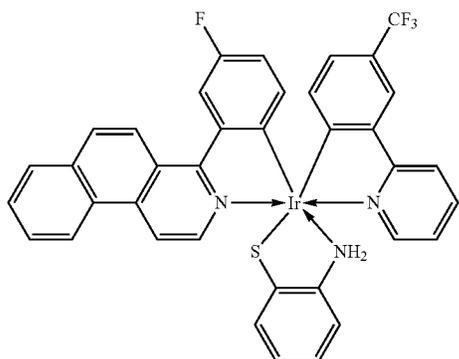
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Ir-205



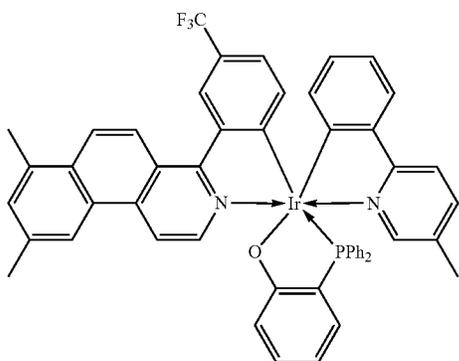
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Ir-206



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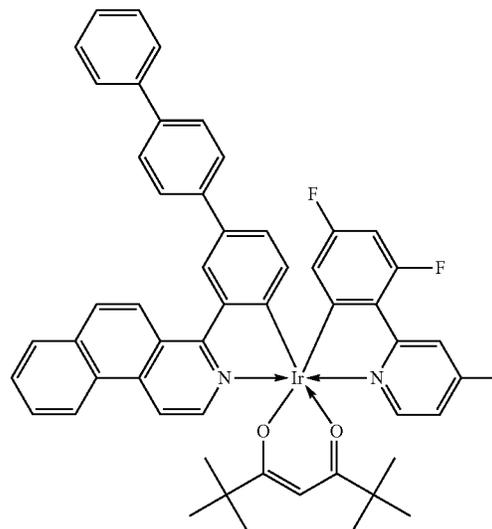
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38

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Ir-301



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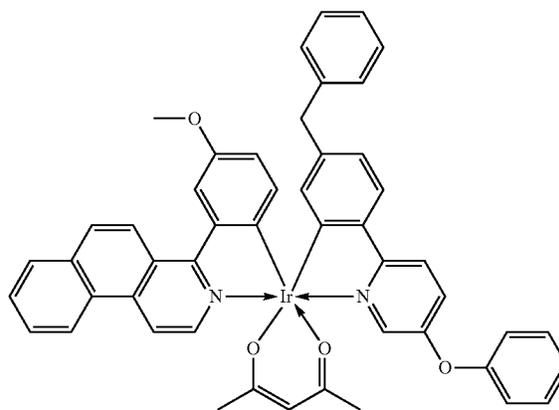
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Ir-204

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Ir-302



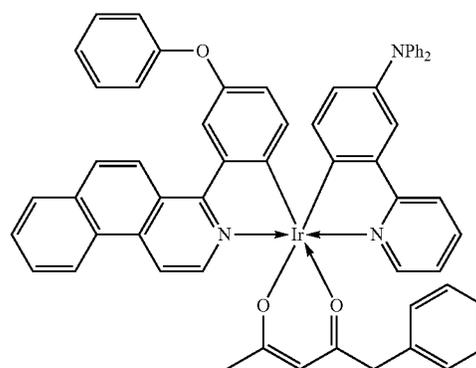
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Ir-303

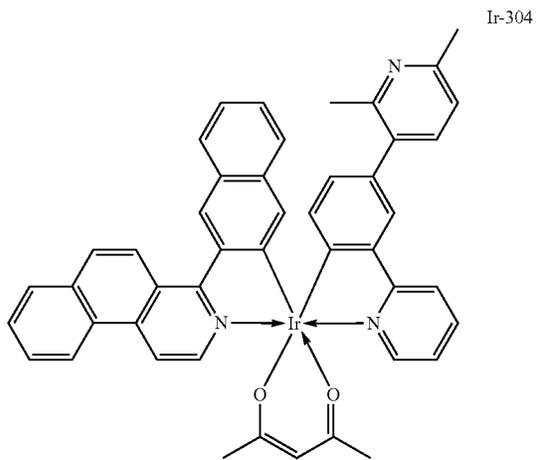


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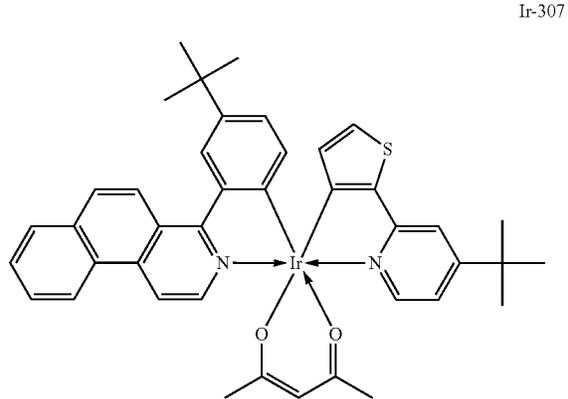
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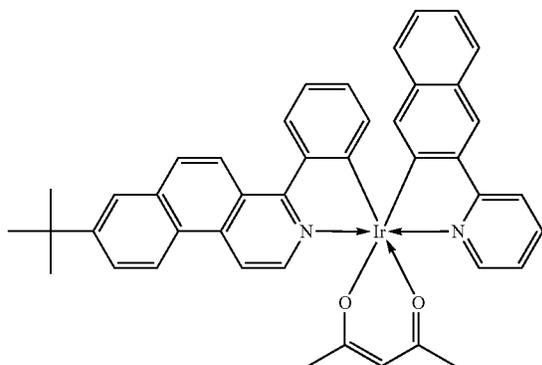
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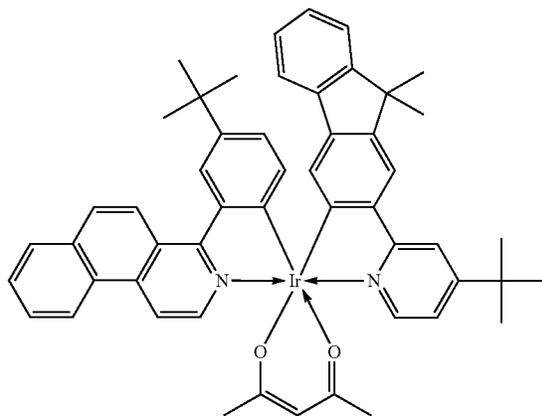
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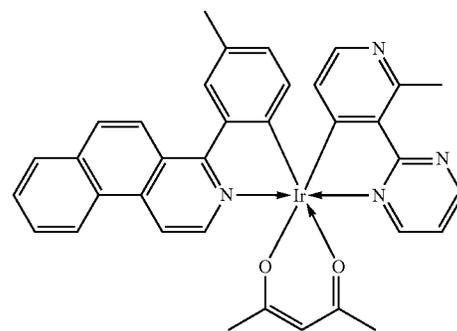
Ir-305



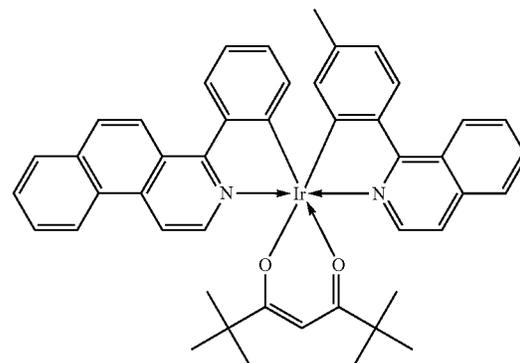
Ir-306



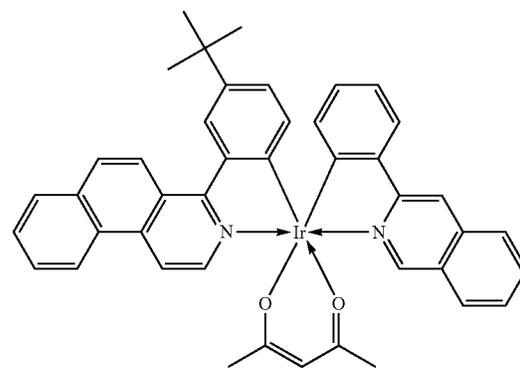
Ir-308



Ir-309



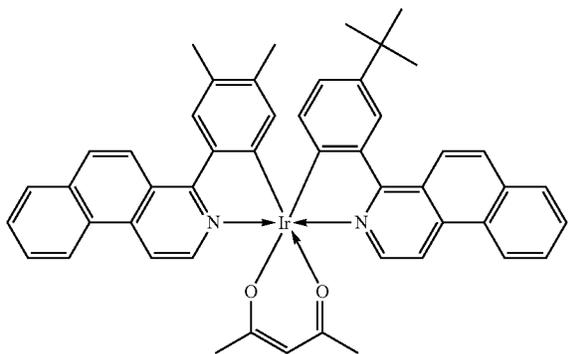
Ir-310



41

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Ir-311



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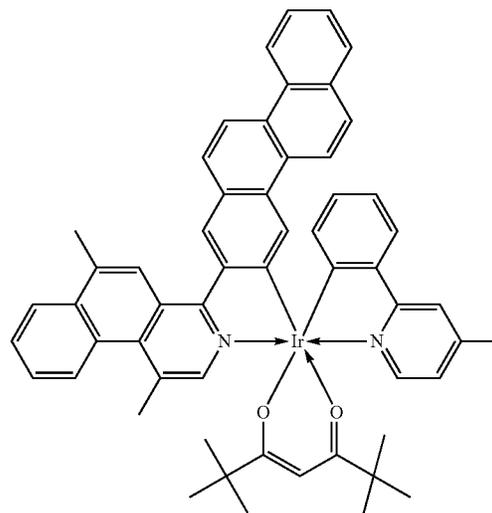
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42

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Ir-402



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Ir-312

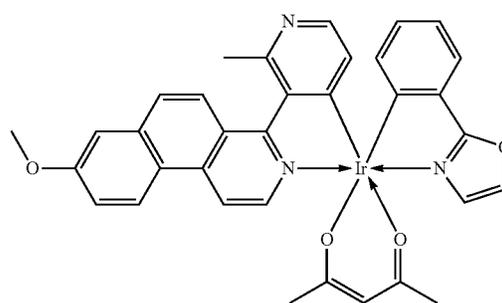
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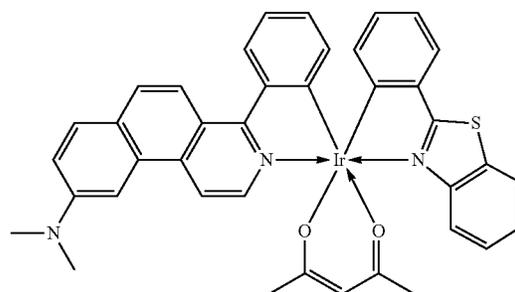
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Ir-403

Ir-404

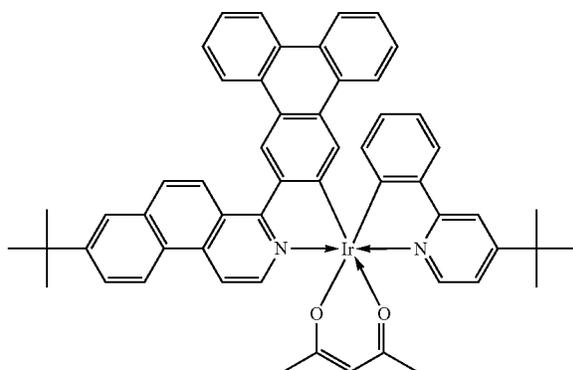


Ir-401

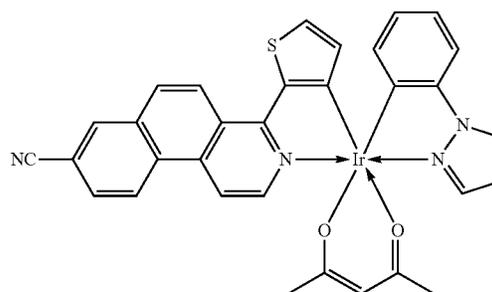
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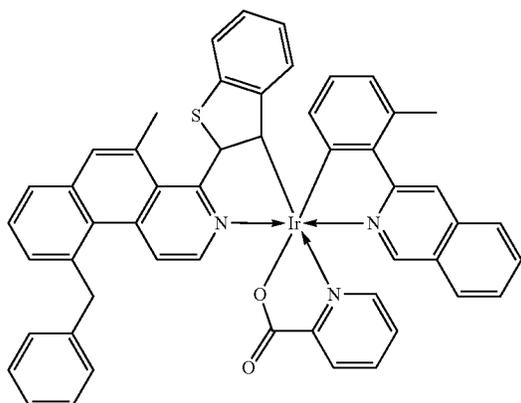
Ir-405



43

-continued

Ir-406



Of the exemplified iridium complexes, Ir-101 to Ir-136 each have a structure given below.

The partial structure including the ligand L_1 is the structure represented by the general formula [4]. The partial structure including the ligand L_2 is the structure represented by the general formula [5], and R_{13} to R_{20} in the formula [5] each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a phenyl group.

The partial structure including the ligand L_3 is the structure represented by the general formula [6], and R_{21} to R_{23} in the formula [6] each represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms.

Therefore, Ir-101 to Ir-136 are each particularly excellent in sublimability because preferred aspects of the three kinds of ligands to be incorporated into the iridium complex of the present invention are combined. In addition, the complexes each generate phosphorescence whose color ranges from an orange color to a red color resulting from the partial structure IrL_1 .

Of the exemplified iridium complexes, Ir-201 to Ir-206 each use β -diketonate or any other bidentate ligand having a specific substituent as the ligand L_3 . The phosphorescence characteristics of any such iridium complex such as an emission peak wavelength and the waveform of an emission spectrum can be appropriately regulated by changing L_3 as the auxiliary ligand.

Of the exemplified iridium complexes, Ir-301 to 312 are each such that the ligand L_2 is the ligand represented by the general formula [3] or [5]. In the present invention, the ligand L_2 can be selected from a wider range of alternatives as long as its basic structure is represented by the general formula [3]. Here, the (energy level of the) HOMO or LUMO of any such iridium complex can be changed, or phosphorescence based mainly on the partial structure IrL_2 can be generated by appropriately selecting the ligand L_2 .

Of the exemplified iridium complexes, Ir-401 to Ir-406 each have a structure given below.

The partial structure including the ligand L_1 is the structure represented by the general formula [2].

The partial structure including the ligand L_2 is the structure represented by the general formula [3].

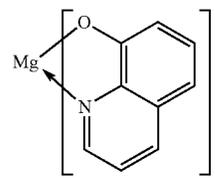
In addition, not only phosphorescence whose color ranges from an orange color to a red color but also phosphorescence having a longer wavelength can be generated by L_1 represented in each of Ir-401 to Ir-406. In addition, a complex having various physical properties can be designed by appropriately combining L_1 and L_2 represented in each of Ir-401 to Ir-406.

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(6) Specific Examples of Metal Complex

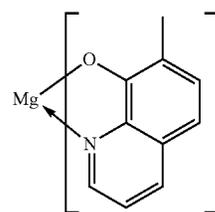
Specific structural formulae of the metal complex compound to be used as the host are exemplified below.

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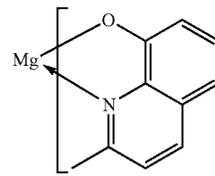
H101

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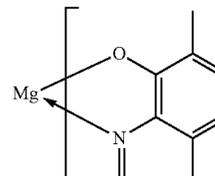
H102

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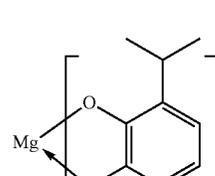
H103

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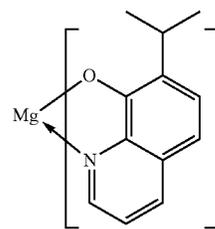
H104

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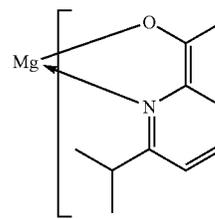
H105

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H106

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H107

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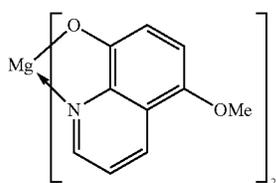
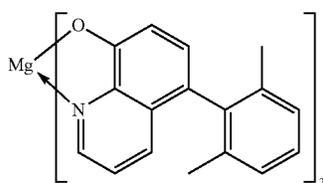
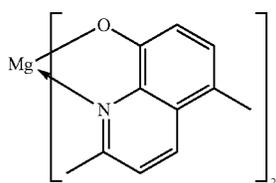
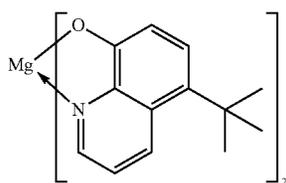
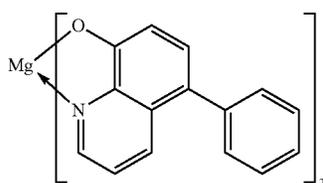
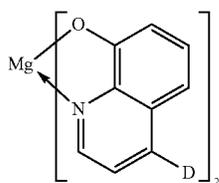
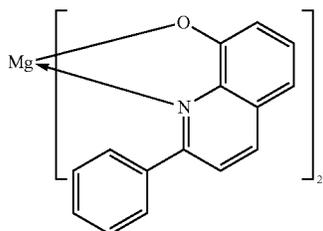
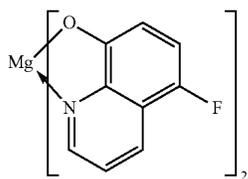
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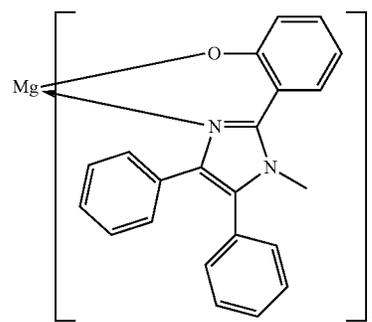
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**46**

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H108

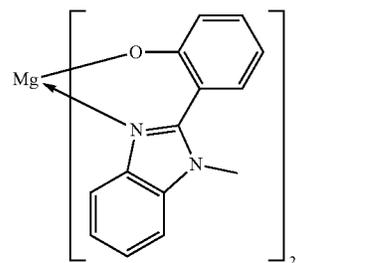
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H116

H109 10

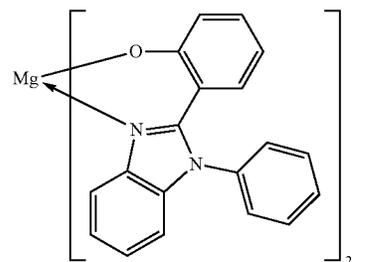
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H117

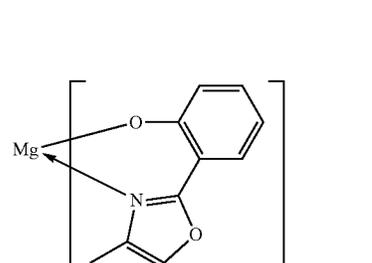
H110 20

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H111

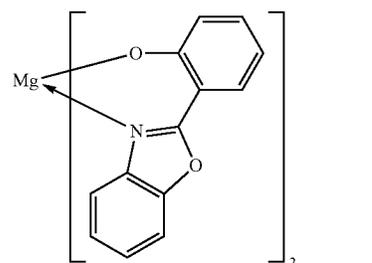
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H118

H112 35

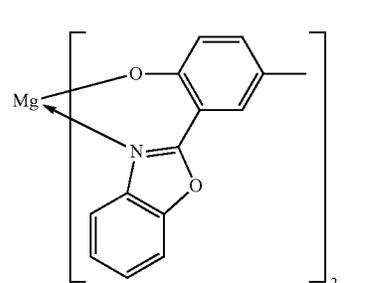
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H119

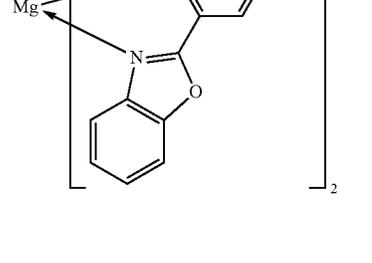
H113

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H114

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H120

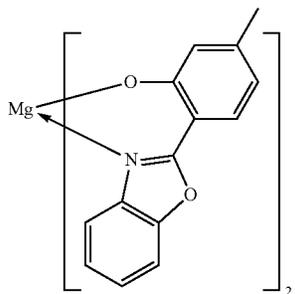
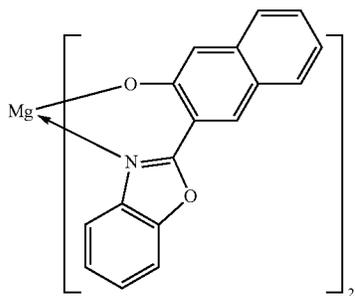
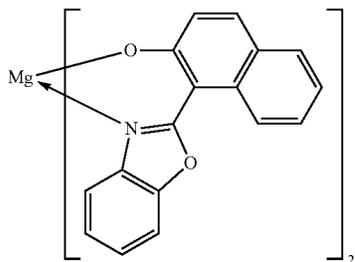
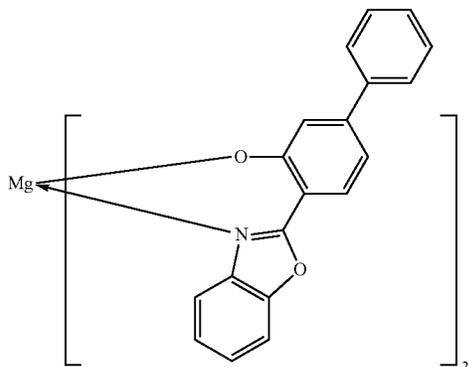
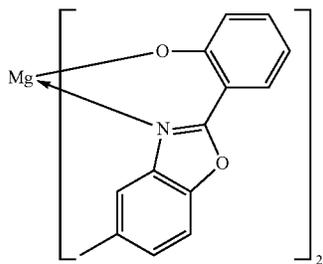
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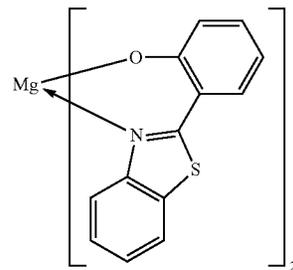


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H121

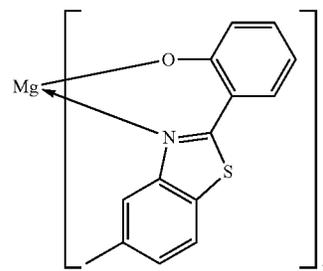
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H126

H122

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H127

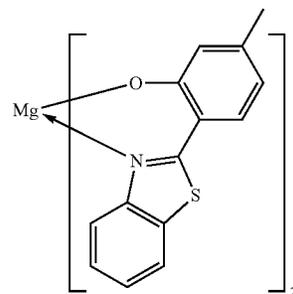
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H123

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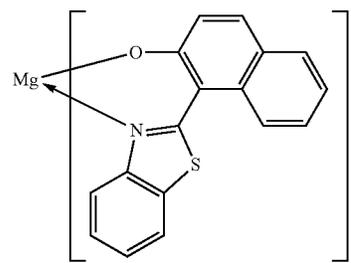
H128

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H124

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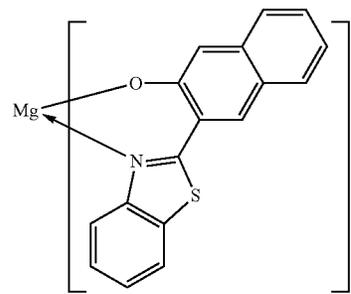
H129

H125

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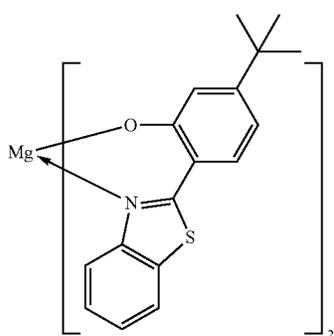
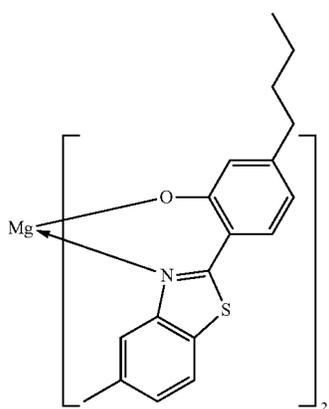
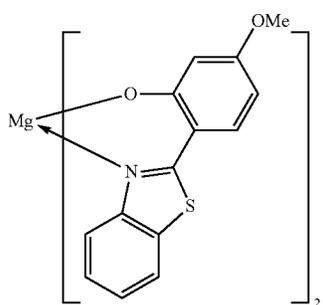
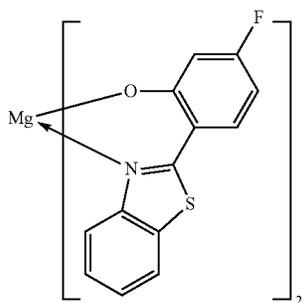
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H130

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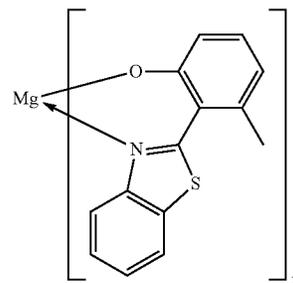


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H131

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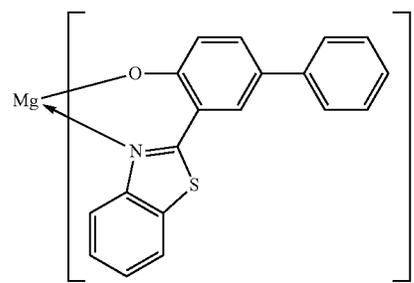
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H132

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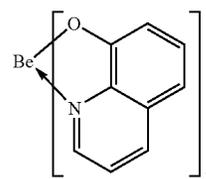
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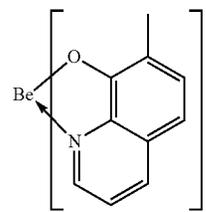
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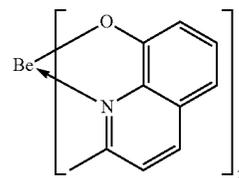
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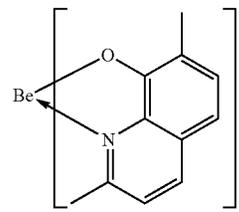
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H135

H136

H201

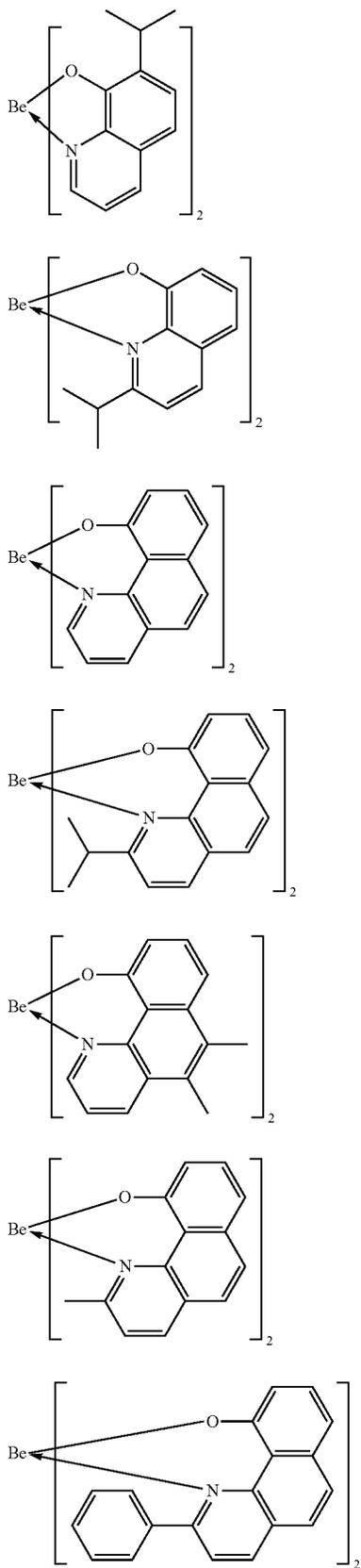
H202

H203

H204

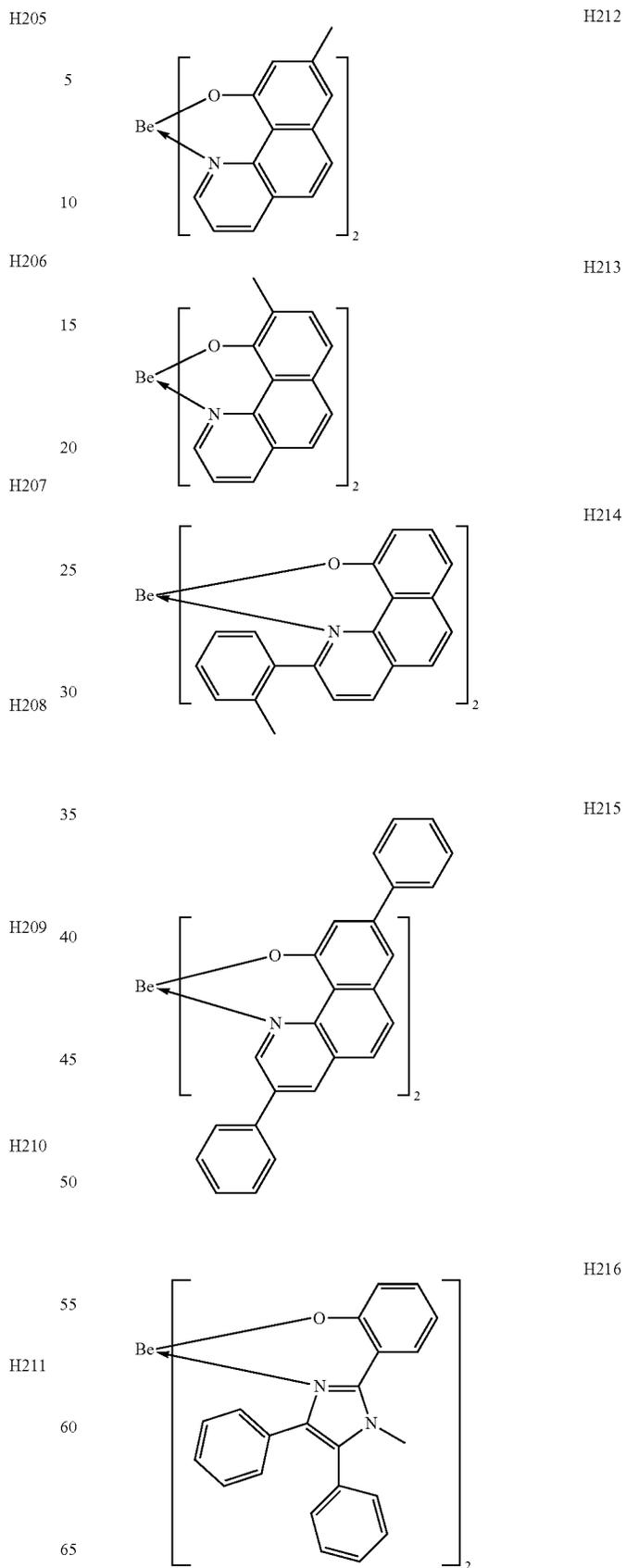
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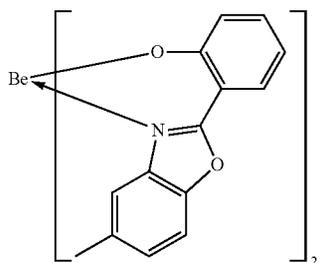
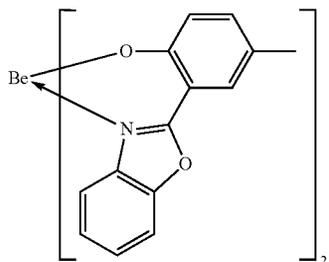
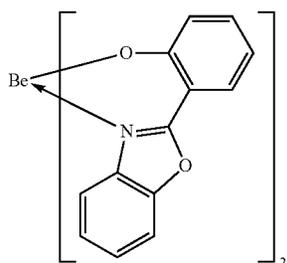
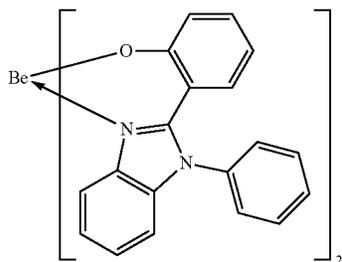
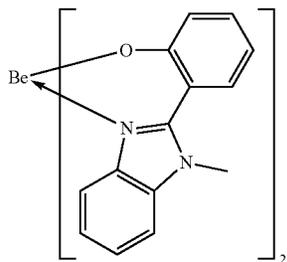
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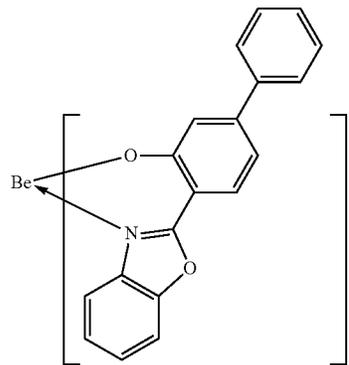


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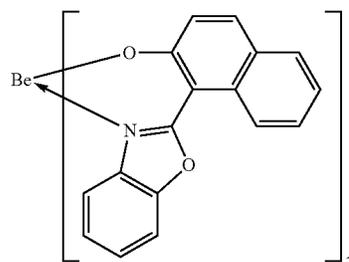
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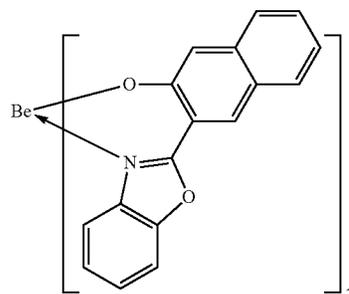
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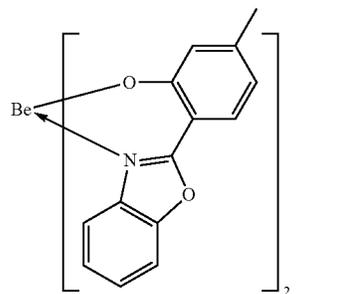
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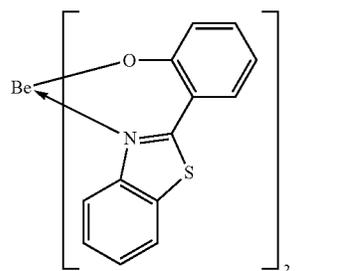
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H221

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H222

H223

H224

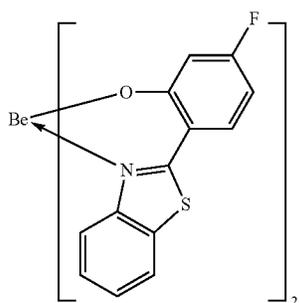
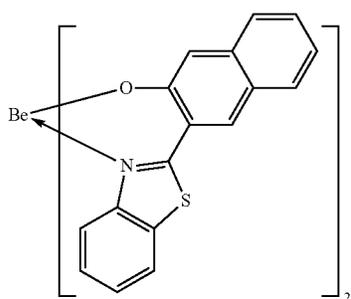
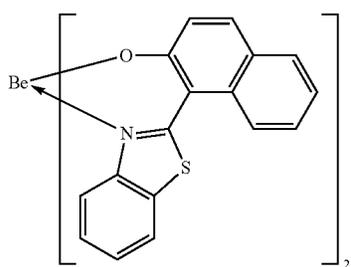
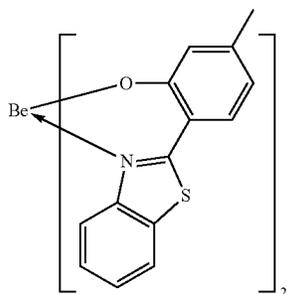
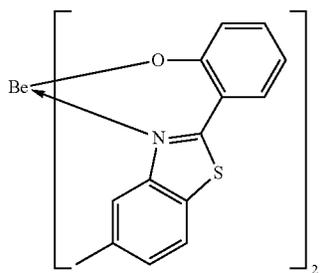
H225

H226

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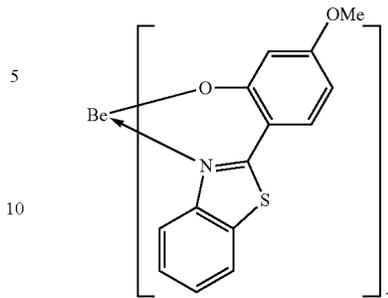
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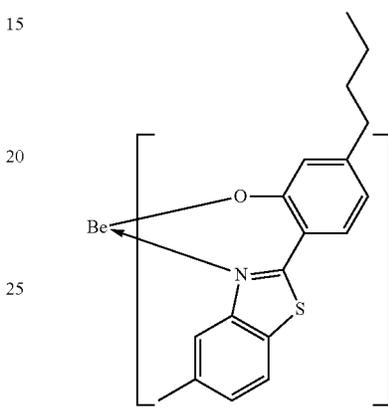
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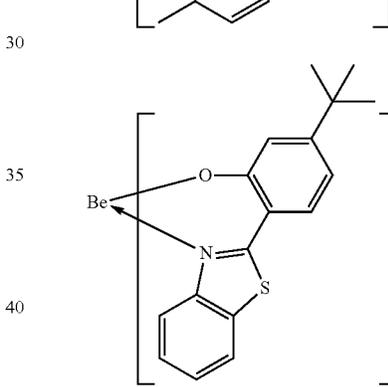
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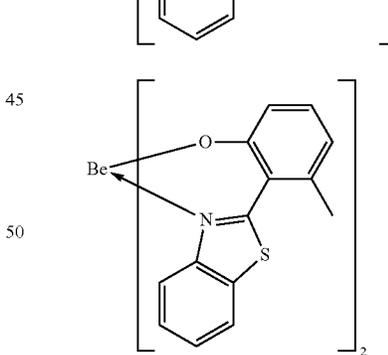
H228



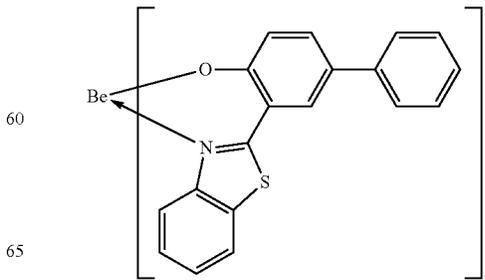
H229



H230



H231



H232

H233

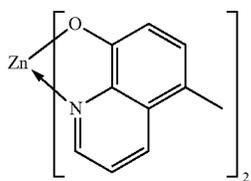
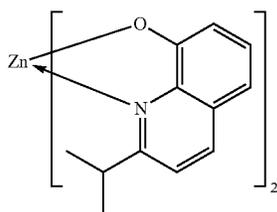
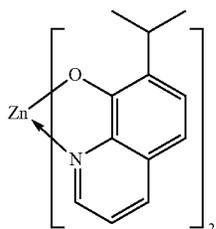
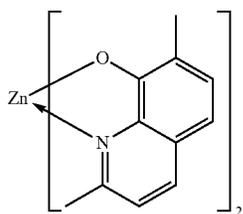
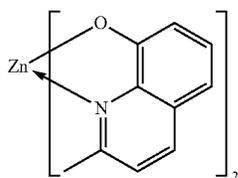
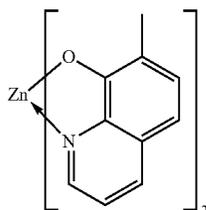
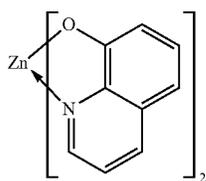
H234

H235

H236

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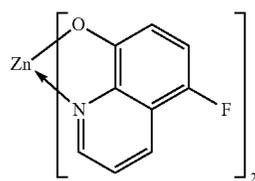


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H301

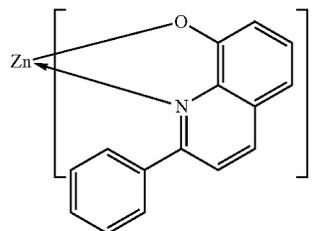
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H308

H302 10

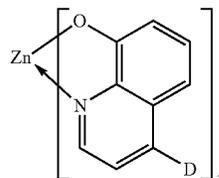
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H309

H303 20

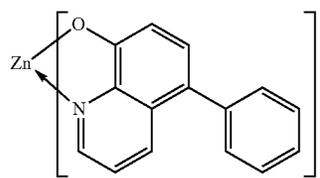
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H310

H304

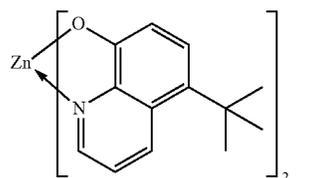
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H311

H305

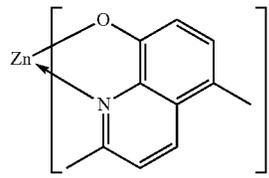
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H312

H306

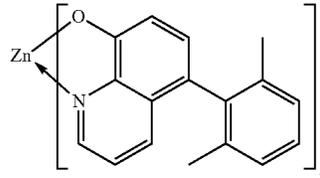
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H313

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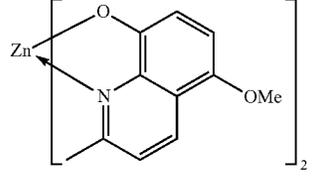
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H314

H307

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H315

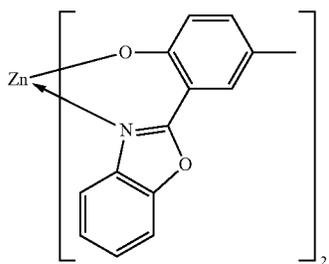
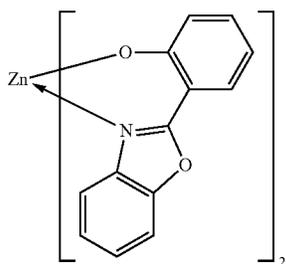
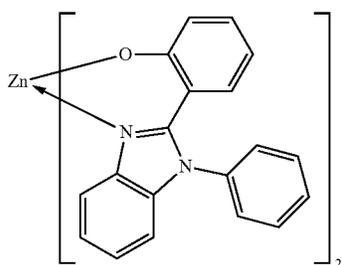
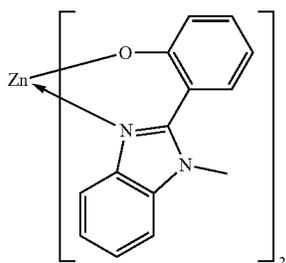
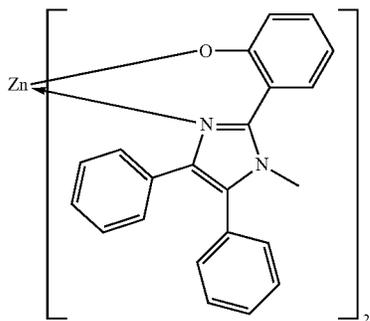
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H316

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H317

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H318

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H319

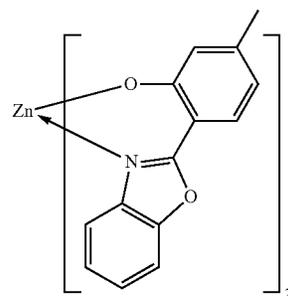
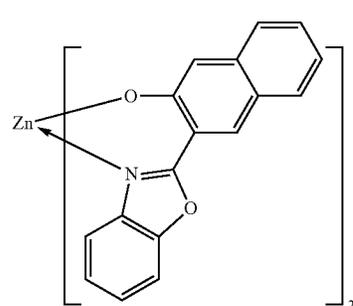
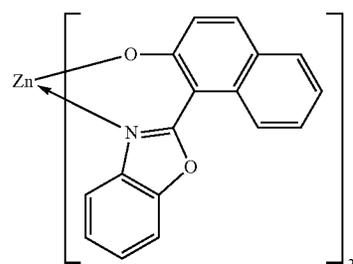
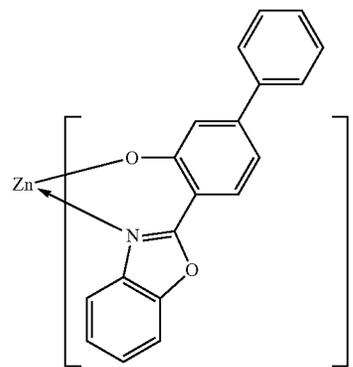
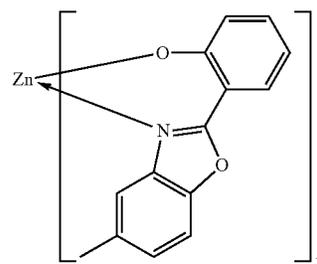
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H320

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H321

H322

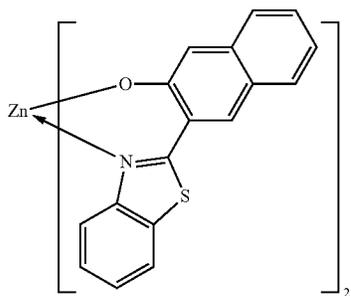
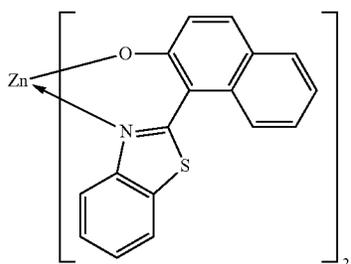
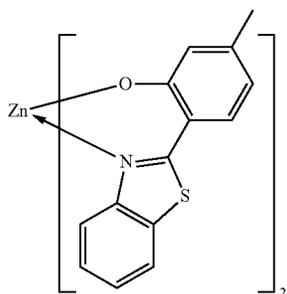
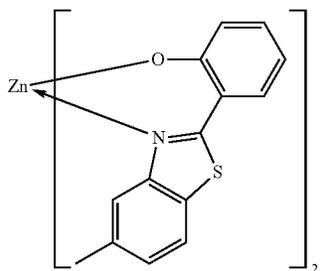
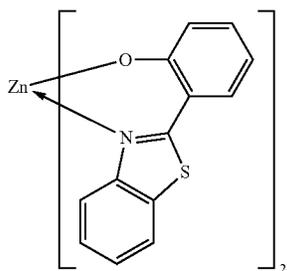
H323

H324

H325

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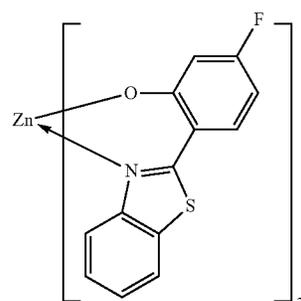


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H326

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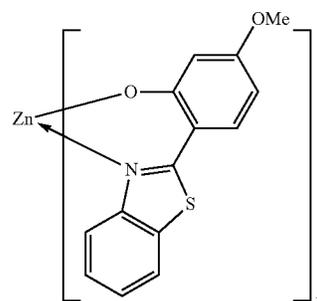
H331

H327

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H328

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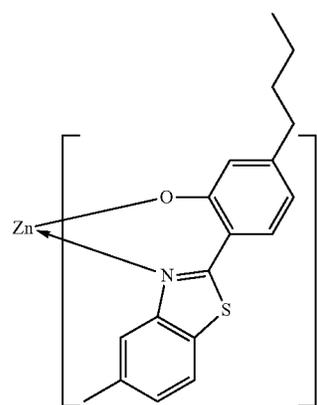


H332

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H329

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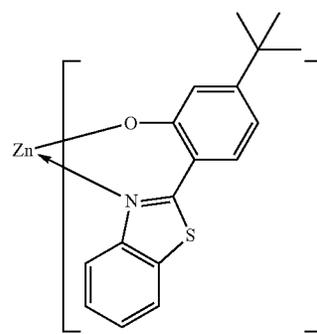


H333

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H330

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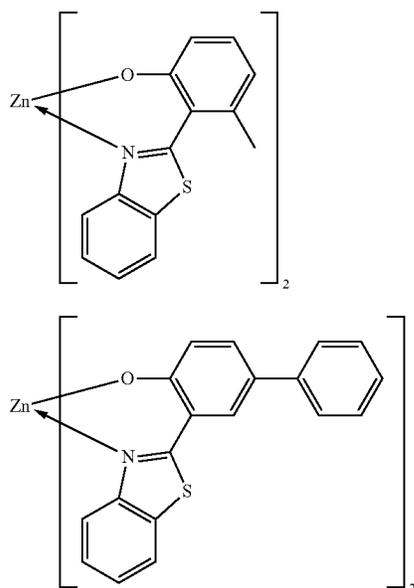


H334

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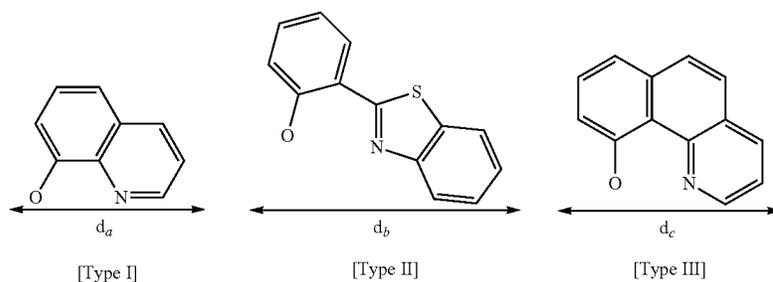
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The exemplified compounds can be classified into several groups depending on a relationship between a ligand and a metal from the viewpoint of the stability of a metal complex itself.

Here, for ligands represented in the following type I to type III, distances between a nitrogen atom and oxygen atom included in each of the ligands and serving to coordinate to a metal atom are compared. The distances were each determined as follows: the stable structure of each of the ligands was calculated by employing an MM2 method as molecular mechanical calculation, and then the distance between the nitrogen atom and the oxygen atom was calculated from the structure.



As a result of the calculation, the d_a of a quinolinol ligand (type I) was found to be 2.68 Å, the d_b of a phenylbenzothiazole ligand (type II) was found to be 2.60 Å, and the d_c of a benzoquinolinol ligand (type III) was found to be 2.52 Å.

Meanwhile, the respective metal ionic radii of Mg, Zn, and Be are 0.75 Å, 0.83 Å, and 0.30 Å, respectively. In that case, Mg and Zn as metals having large ionic radii are suitable for the quinolinol ligand as the type I, and Be as a metal having a small metal ionic radius is suitable for the phenylbenzothiazole ligand as the type III. By the same reason, Be is also suitable for the phenylbenzothiazole ligand or the benzoquinolinol ligand. In actuality, when Mg or Zn is selected as a metal atom to be incorporated into a complex, it is difficult to synthesize a complex containing

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the benzoquinolinol ligand in which the distance between the nitrogen atom and the oxygen atom is long.

H335 The metal complexes represented by Exemplified Compounds H101 to H115 are each a complex in which a central metal is Mg and a ligand is a quinolinol derivative. The quinolinol derivative is a ligand capable of producing a stable complex based on the ionic radius of Mg and is a compound having a small molecular weight. Accordingly, the complex can sublime at a low sublimation temperature. H336
 5 The metal complexes represented by H116 to H118 are each a complex in which a central metal is Mg and a ligand is a phenylimidazole derivative. According to calculation, a distance between a nitrogen atom and oxygen atom in the phenylimidazole derivative is 2.56 Å, and hence the ligand can complex Mg. The ligand itself has a wide band gap and hence the ligand is suitable for obtaining a high T_1 energy. The metal complexes represented by H119 to H125 are each a complex in which a central metal is Mg and a ligand is a phenylbenzoxazole derivative. A benzoxazole ring is a stable heterocycle. In addition, according to calculation, a distance between a nitrogen atom and oxygen atom in the benzoxazole derivative is 2.69 Å, and hence the ligand can produce a stable Mg complex. In addition, the ligand is a ligand suitable for the utilization of a high T_1 energy because of its wide band gap. Therefore, an organic light-emitting element having high light-emitting efficiency can be obtained. The metal complexes represented by H126 to H136 are each a complex in which a central metal is Mg and a ligand is a phenylbenzothiazole derivative. A benzothiazole ring is a stable heterocycle and is a ligand capable of producing the most stable complex. Accordingly, the ligand is suitable for improving the stability and element lifetime of an element. By the way, the introduction of a substituent into any one of the ligands described above can suppress its stacking. Accordingly, the introduction can improve the sublimability of a complex and can change the band gap of the complex. It should be noted that a carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom has high activity and hence the activity of the carbon atom can be controlled through substitution with a methyl group or an isopropyl group.

H201 to H206 are each a complex in which a central metal is Be and a ligand is a quinolinol derivative. Although the stability of each of the complexes is not very high in consideration of the ionic radius of a Be atom, the complex can sublime at a low sublimation temperature because of its small molecular weight. H207 to H215 are each a complex in which a central metal is Be and a ligand is a benzoquinolinol derivative. A benzoquinolinol ring is a stable heterocycle. In addition, in consideration of the ionic radius of Be, the complex containing the benzoquinolinol ligand is a stable complex out of the Be complexes, and hence can provide a high-efficiency and long-lifetime organic light-emitting element. H216 to H218 are each a metal complex in which a central metal is Be, and each have a ligand having a wide band gap and suitable upon utiliza-

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tion of a high T_1 energy. Therefore, a high-efficiency organic light-emitting element can be obtained. H219 to H225 are each a complex in which a central metal is Be and a ligand is a phenylbenzoxazole derivative. A benzoxazole ligand is a stable heterocycle and is hence a ligand capable of producing a stable Be complex. In addition, the benzoxazole ligand is suitable for the utilization of a high T_1 energy and hence can provide a high-efficiency organic light-emitting element. H226 to H236 are each a complex in which a central metal is Be and a ligand is a phenylbenzothiazole derivative. A benzothiazole ligand is a stable heterocycle and is a ligand capable of producing the most stable Be complex. In addition, the complex has a T_1 energy suitable for red phosphorescence, and hence can provide a high-efficiency and long-lifetime organic light-emitting element. By the way, the introduction of a substituent into any one of the ligands described above can suppress its stacking. Accordingly, the introduction can improve the sublimability of a complex and can change the band gap of the complex. It should be noted that a carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom has high activity and hence the activity of the carbon atom can be controlled through substitution with a methyl group or an isopropyl group.

H301 to H315 are each a complex in which a central metal is Zn and a ligand is a quinolinol derivative. The ligand can produce an extremely stable complex based on the ionic radius of a Zn complex and has a small molecular weight, and hence the complex can sublime at a low sublimation temperature. In addition, the introduction of a substituent suppresses the stacking of the ligand, and hence can improve the sublimability of the complex and can change the band gap of the complex. H316 to H318 are each a complex in which a central metal is Zn and a ligand is a phenylimidazole derivative. A distance between a nitrogen atom and oxygen atom in the ligand is 2.56 Å, and hence the ligand can complex Zn. The ligand itself has a wide band gap and hence the ligand is suitable upon utilization of a high T_1 energy. The introduction of a substituent into any one of the ligands described above can suppress its stacking. Accordingly, the

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introduction can improve the sublimability of a complex and can change the band gap of the complex. It should be noted that a carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom has high activity and hence the activity of the carbon atom can be controlled through substitution with a methyl group or an isopropyl group.

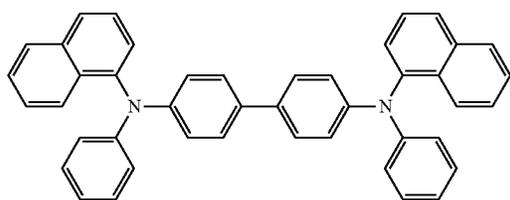
(7) Other Materials

As described above, in the organic light-emitting element of the present invention, the emission layer contains at least the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] as a guest and the heterocycle-containing compound as a host. It should be noted that in the present invention, conventionally known low-molecular weight and high-molecular weight materials can each be used as required in addition to those compounds. More specifically, a hole-injectable/transportable material, a host, a light emission assist material, an electron-injectable/transportable material, or the like can be used together with the iridium complex and the heterocycle-containing compound.

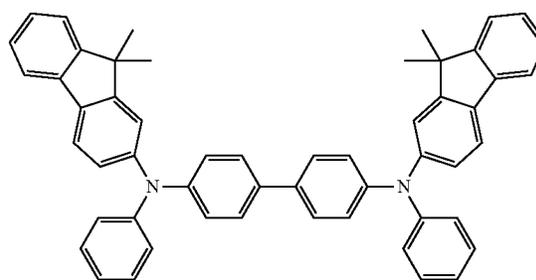
Examples of those materials are listed below.

The hole-injectable/transportable material is preferably a material having a high hole mobility so that the injection of a hole from the anode may be facilitated and the injected hole can be transported to the emission layer. In addition, the material is preferably a material having a high glass transition point for preventing the deterioration of film quality such as crystallization in the organic light-emitting element. Examples of the low-molecular weight and high-molecular weight materials each having hole-injecting/transporting performance include a triarylamine derivative, an arylcarbazole derivative, a phenylenediamine derivative, a stilbene derivative, a phthalocyanine derivative, a porphyrin derivative, poly(vinyl carbazole), poly(thiophene), and other conductive polymers. Further, the hole-injectable/transportable material is suitably used for the electron blocking layer as well.

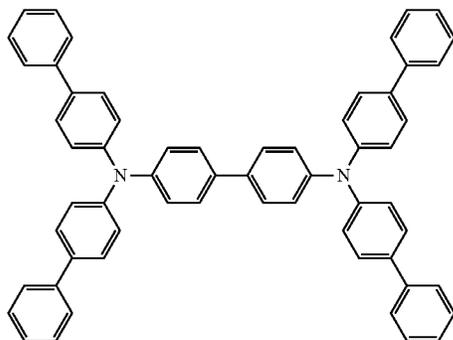
Specific examples of a compound to be used as the hole-injectable/transportable material are shown below. However, the compound is of course not limited thereto.



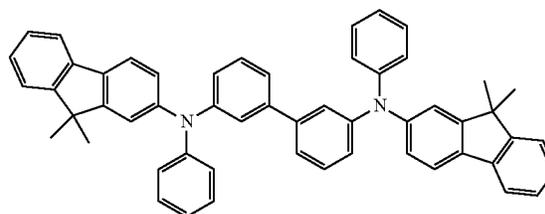
HT1



HT2



HT3



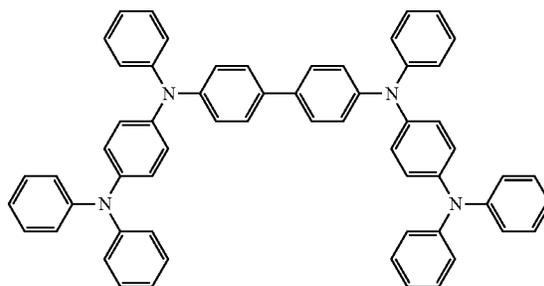
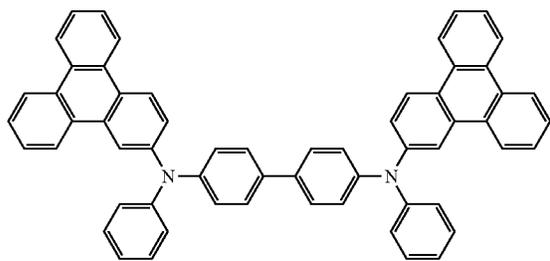
HT4

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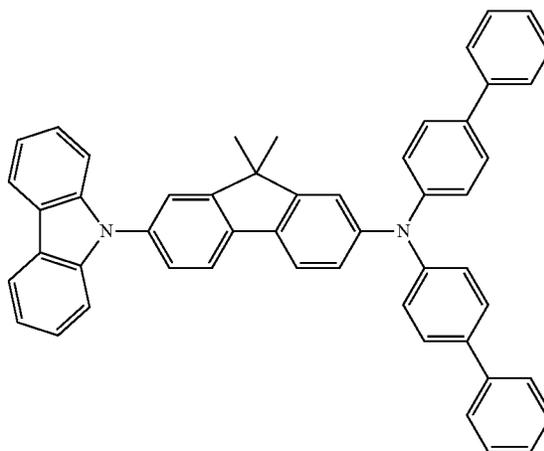
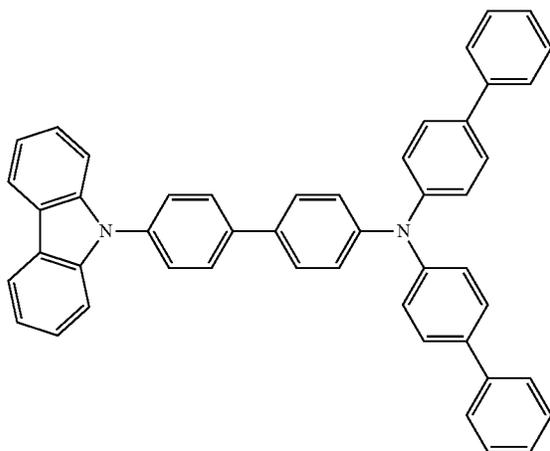
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HT5

HT6



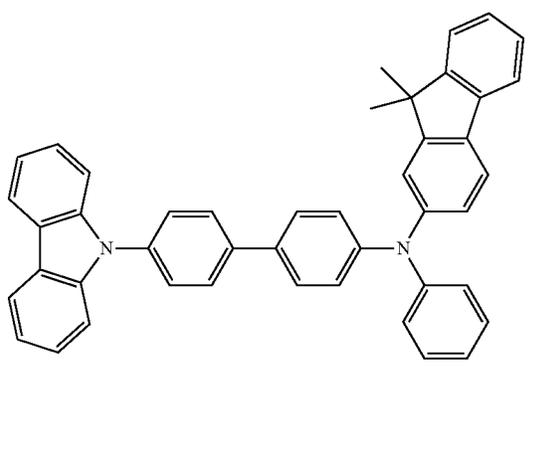
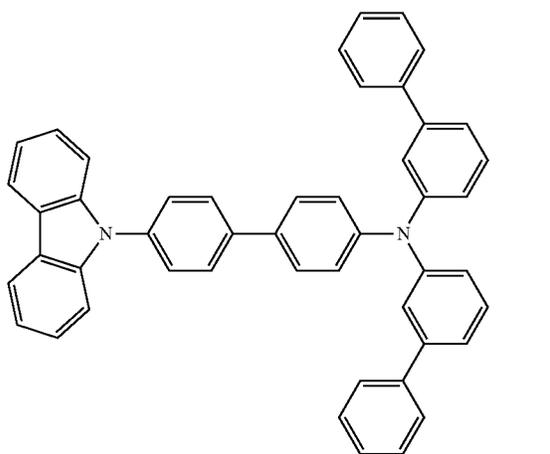
HT7

HT8



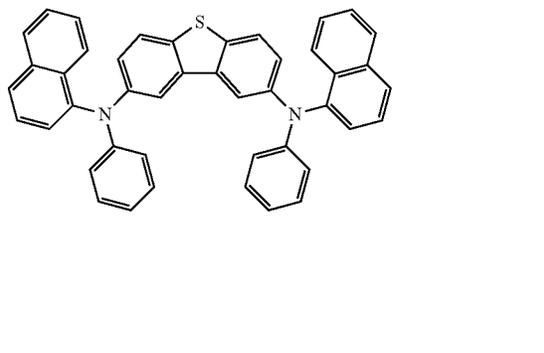
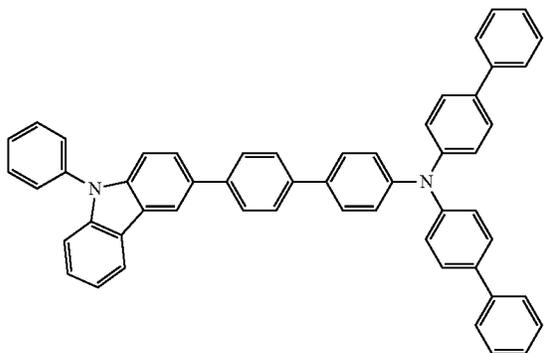
HT9

HT10



HT11

HT12

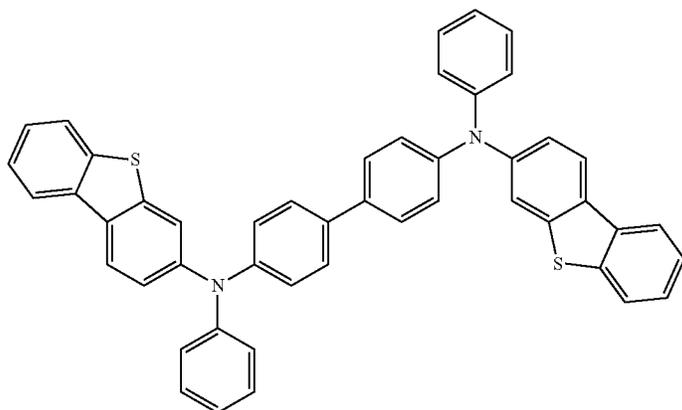


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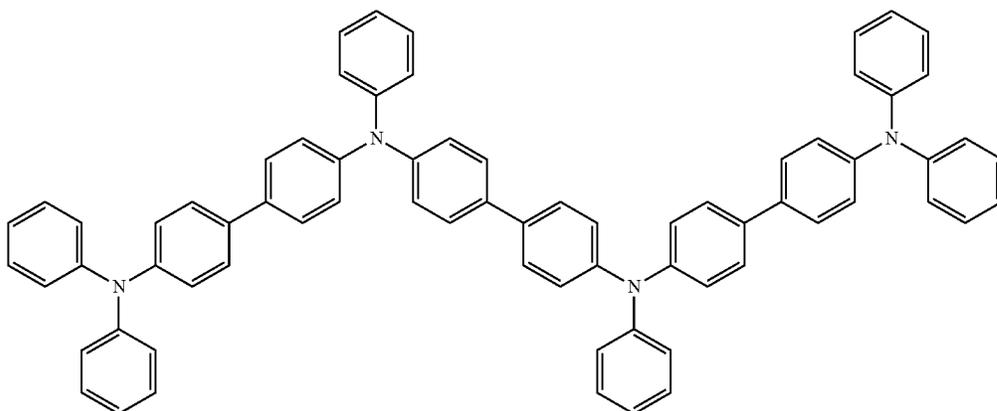
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HT13



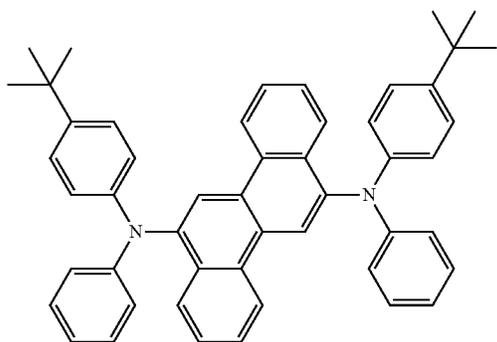
HT14



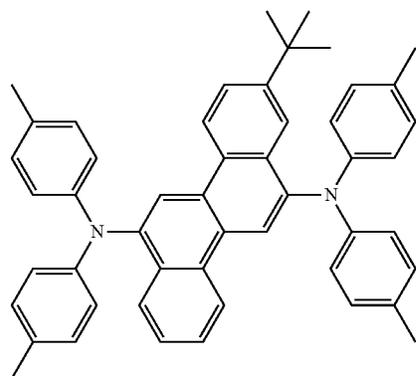
Examples of the light-emitting material mainly involved in a light-emitting function include: condensed ring compounds (such as a fluorene derivative, a naphthalene derivative, a pyrene derivative, a perylene derivative, a tetracene derivative, an anthracene derivative, and rubrene); a quina-

40 nium complex; and polymer derivatives such as a poly (phenylene vinylene) derivative, a poly(fluorene) derivative, and a poly(phenylene) derivative in addition to the iridium complex represented by the general formula [1] or a deriva-
45 tive thereof.

Specific examples of a compound to be used as the light-emitting material are shown below. However, the compound is of course not limited thereto.



BD1



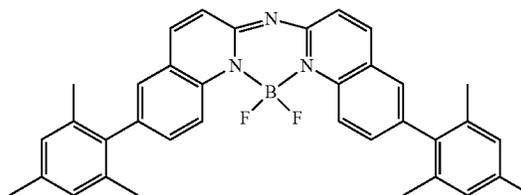
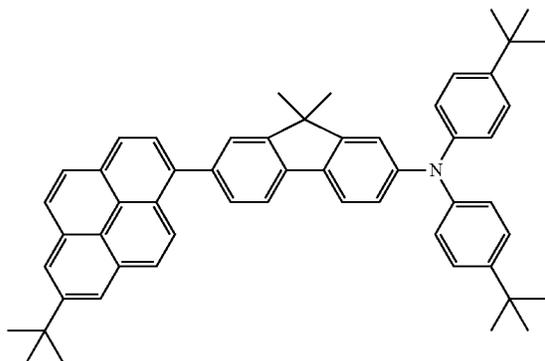
BD2

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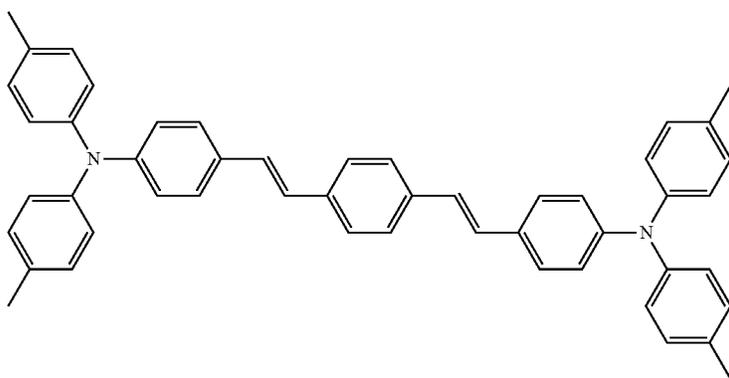
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BD3

BD4

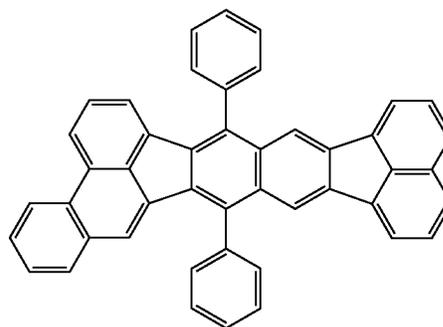
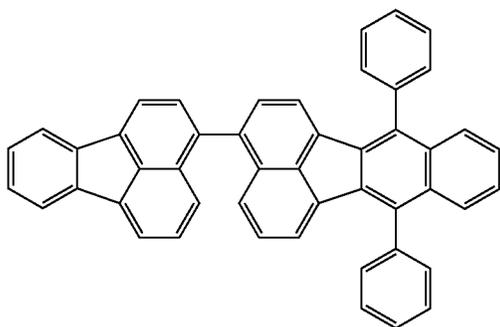


BD5



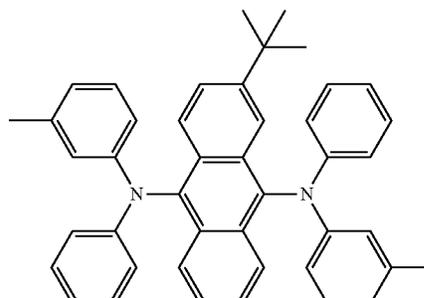
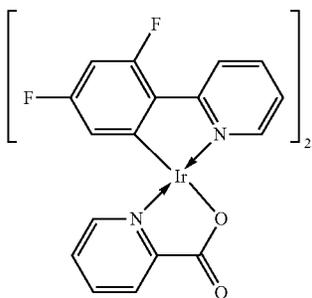
BD6

BD7

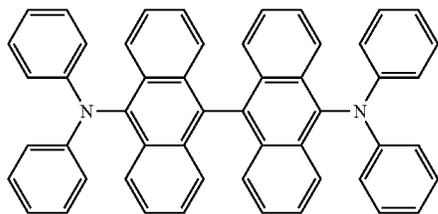


BD8

GD1

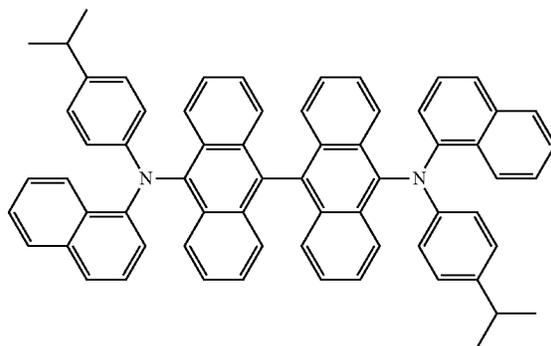


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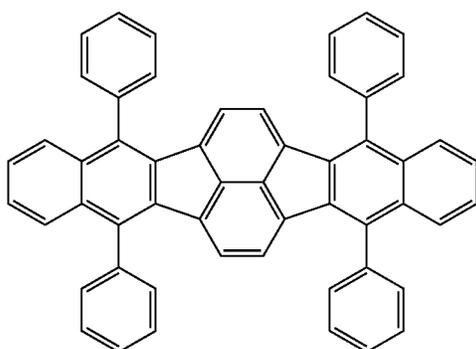


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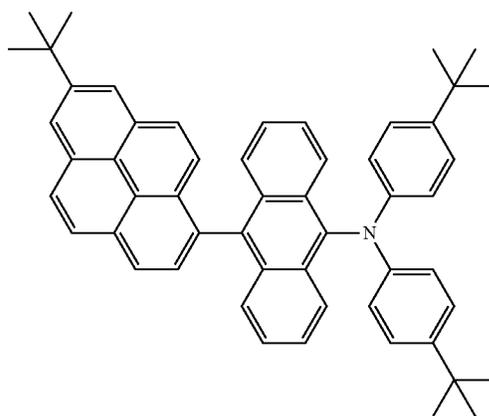
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GD2



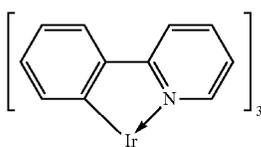
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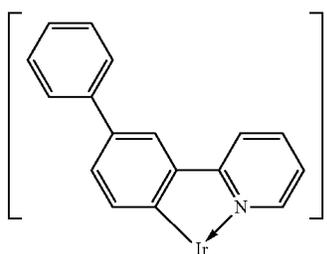
GD4



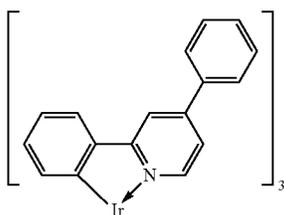
GD5



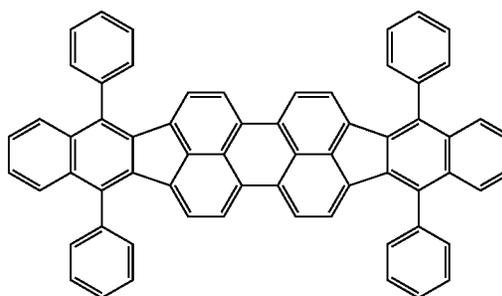
GD6



GD7

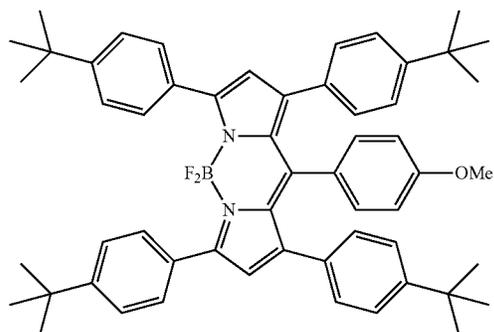


GD8

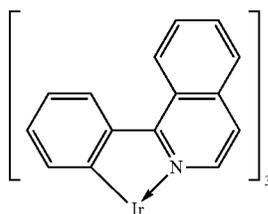


RD1

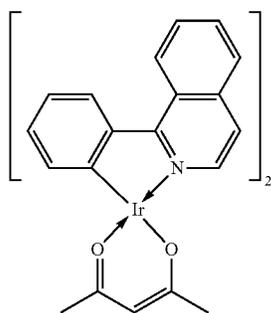
75



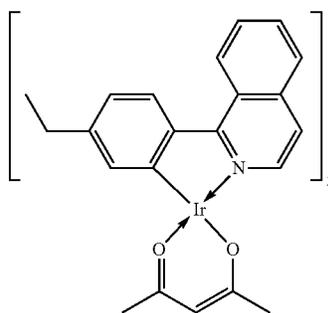
76

-continued
RD2

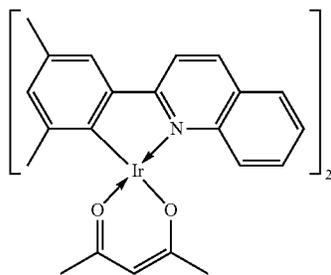
RD3



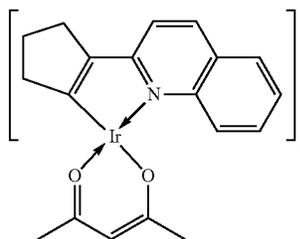
RD4



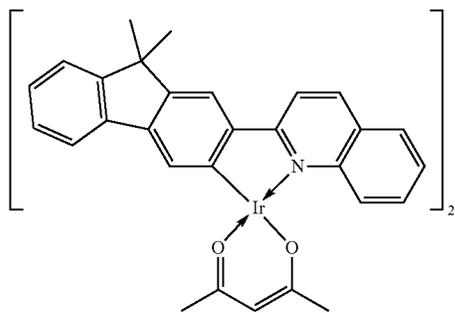
RD5



RD6



RD7



RD8

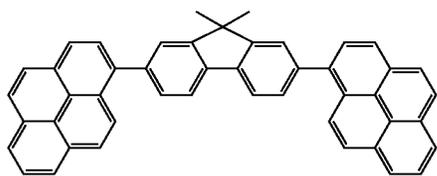
Examples of the host or assist material to be incorporated into the emission layer include: an aromatic hydrocarbon compound or a derivative thereof; a carbazole derivative; a dibenzofuran derivative; a dibenzothiophene derivative; an organic aluminum complex such as tris(8-quinolinolato)

aluminum; and an organic beryllium complex in addition to the heterocycle-containing compound.

Specific examples of a compound to be used as the host or assist material to be incorporated into the emission layer are shown below. However, the compound is of course not limited thereto.

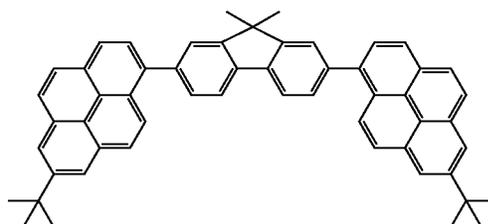
77

78



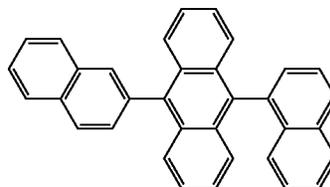
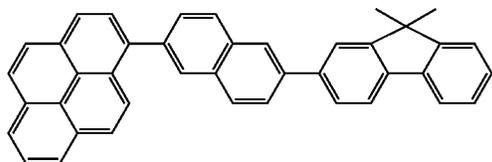
EM1

EM2



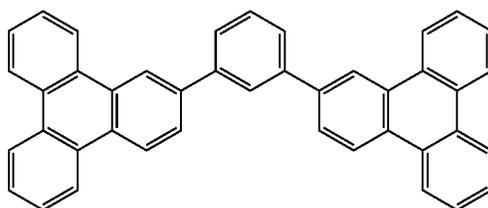
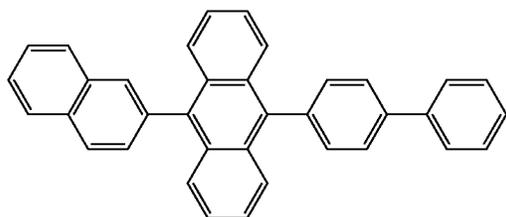
EM3

EM4



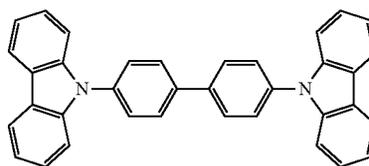
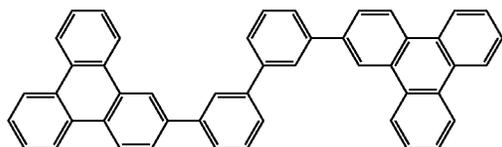
EM5

EM6

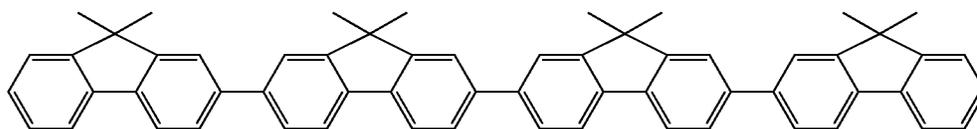


EM7

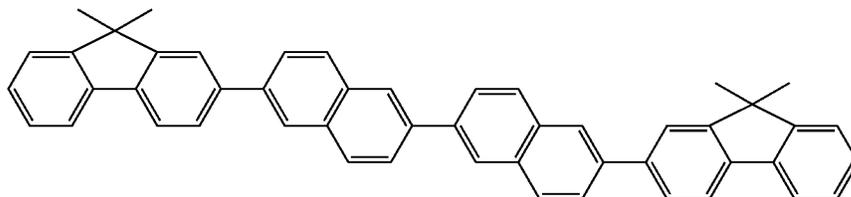
EM8



EM9

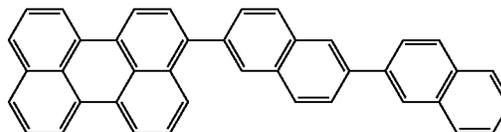
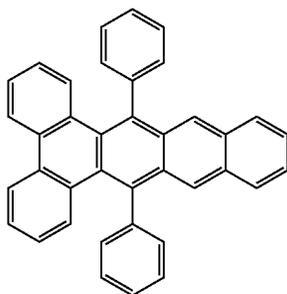


EM10

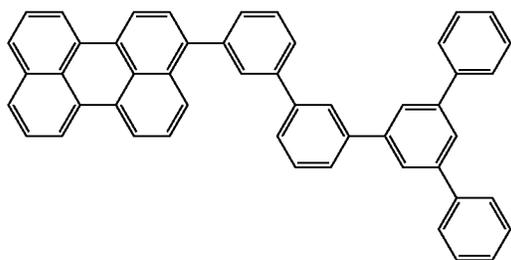


EM11

EM12

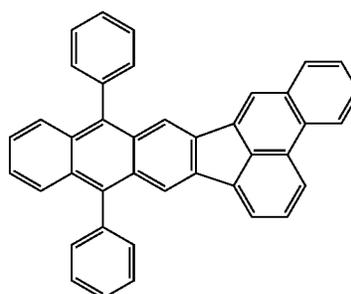


79



-continued
EM13

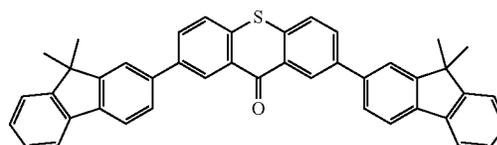
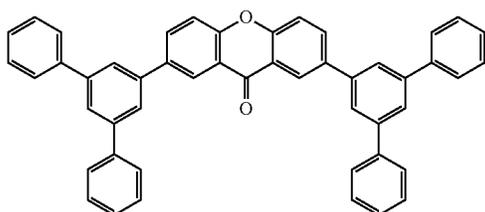
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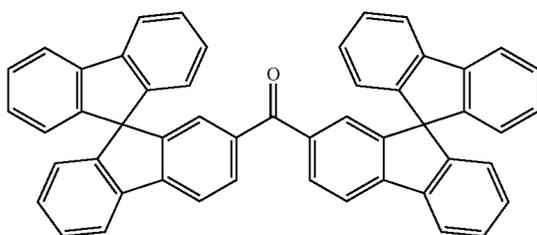
EM14

EM15

EM16



EM17



35

The electron-injectable/transportable material can be arbitrarily selected from materials that allow electrons to be easily injected from the cathode and can transport the injected electrons to the emission layer in consideration of, for example, the balance with the hole mobility of the hole-transportable material. Examples of the material having electron-injecting performance and electron-transporting performance include an oxadiazole derivative, an oxazole derivative, a pyrazine derivative, a triazole derivative, a triazine derivative, a quinoline derivative, a quinoxaline derivative, a phenanthroline derivative, and an organic aluminum complex. Further, the electron-injectable/transportable material is suitably used for the hole blocking layer as well.

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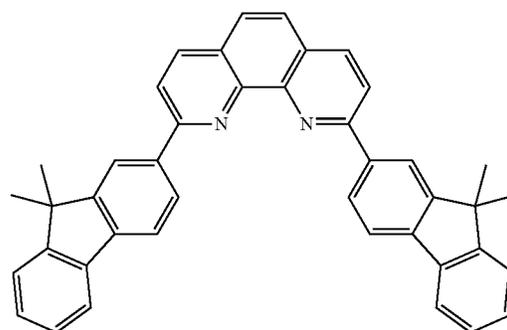
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Specific examples of a compound to be used as the electron-injectable/transportable material are shown below. However, the compound is of course not limited thereto.

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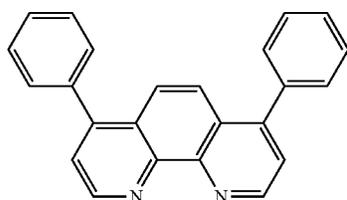
-continued

ET2

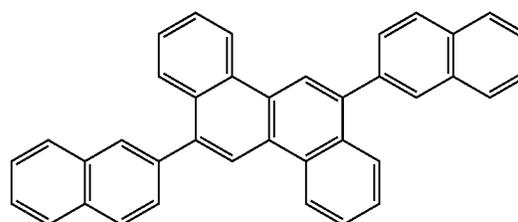


ET1

ET3



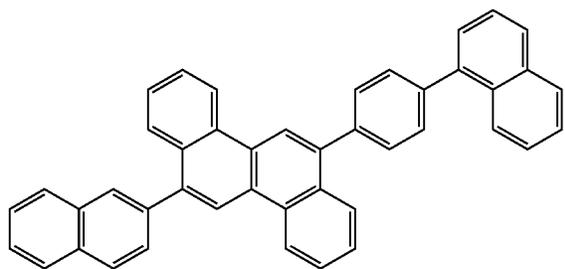
60



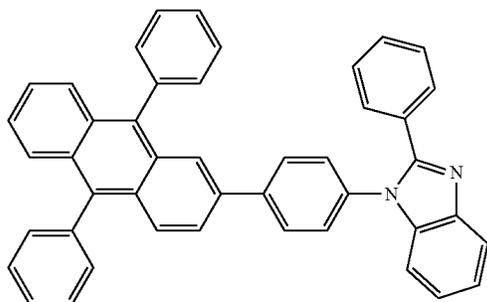
65

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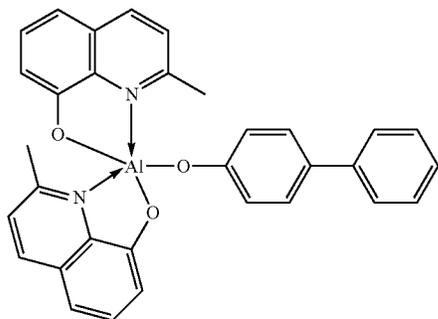
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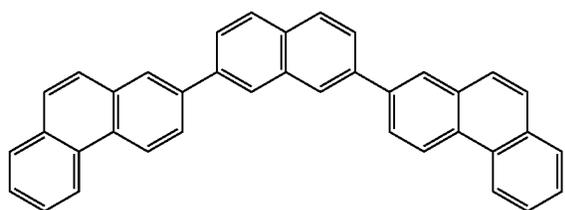
ET4



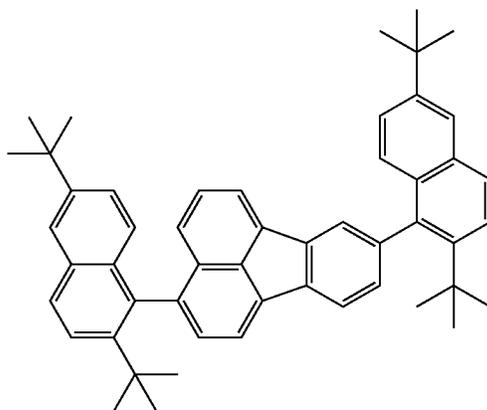
ET5



ET6



ET7



ET8

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In addition, a mixture obtained by mixing the electron-injectable/transportable material and a compound of an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal may be used as the electron-injectable/transportable material. Examples of the metal compound to be mixed with the electron-injectable/transportable material include LiF, KF, Cs₂CO₃, and CsF.

A constituent material for the anode desirably has as large a work function as possible. For example, there can be used: metal simple substances such as gold, platinum, silver, copper, nickel, palladium, cobalt, selenium, vanadium, and tungsten or alloys obtained by combining these metal simple substances; metal oxides such as tin oxide, zinc oxide, indium oxide, indium tin oxide (ITO), indium zinc oxide, gallium zinc oxide, and indium gallium zinc oxide; and conductive polymers such as polyaniline, polypyrrole, and polythiophene. In particular, a transparent oxide semiconductor (e.g., indium tin oxide (ITO), indium zinc oxide, or indium gallium zinc oxide) has a high mobility, and hence is suitable for an electrode material.

One kind of those electrode substances may be used alone, or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination. In addition, the anode may be of a single-layer construction or may be of a multilayer construction.

On the other hand, a constituent material for the cathode desirably has as small a work function as possible. Examples thereof include: alkali metals such as lithium; alkaline earth metals such as calcium; and metal simple substances such as aluminum, titanium, manganese, silver, lead, and chromium. Alternatively, alloys obtained by combining those metal simple substances can be used. For example, a magnesium-silver alloy, an aluminum-lithium alloy, or an aluminum-magnesium alloy can be used. A metal oxide such as indium tin oxide (ITO) can also be utilized. One kind of those electrode substances may be used alone, or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination. In addition, the cathode may be of a single-layer construction or may be of a multilayer construction.

The organic compound layer (such as the hole injection layer, the hole transport layer, the electron blocking layer, the emission layer, the hole blocking layer, the electron transport layer, or the electron injection layer) for forming the organic light-emitting element of the present invention is formed by the following method.

A dry process such as a vacuum vapor deposition method, an ionized vapor deposition method, sputtering, or a plasma process can be used for the formation of the organic compound layer for forming the organic light-emitting element of the present invention. In addition, a wet process involving dissolving the constituent materials in an appropriate solvent and forming a layer by a known application method (such as spin coating, dipping, a casting method, an LB method, or an ink jet method) can be used instead of the dry process.

Here, when the layer is formed by the vacuum vapor deposition method, the solution application method, or the like, the layer hardly undergoes crystallization or the like and is excellent in stability over time. In addition, when the layer is formed by the application method, the film can be formed by using the constituent materials in combination with an appropriate binder resin.

Examples of the binder resin include, but not limited to, a polyvinyl carbazole resin, a polycarbonate resin, a polyester resin, an ABS resin, an acrylic resin, a polyimide resin, a phenol resin, an epoxy resin, a silicone resin, and a urea resin.

In addition, one kind of those binder resins may be used alone as a homopolymer or a copolymer, or two or more kinds thereof may be used as a mixture. Further, a known

additive such as a plasticizer, an antioxidant, or a UV absorber may be used in combination as required.

(10) Application of Organic Light-Emitting Element of the Present Invention

The organic light-emitting element of the present invention can be used as a constituent member for a display apparatus or lighting apparatus. In addition, the element finds use in applications such as an exposure light source for an image-forming apparatus of an electrophotographic system, a backlight for a liquid crystal display apparatus, and a light-emitting apparatus including a white light source and a color filter. Examples of the color filter include filters that transmit light beams having three colors, i.e., red, green, and blue colors.

A display apparatus of the present invention includes the organic light-emitting element of the present invention in its display portion. It should be noted that the display portion includes multiple pixels.

In addition, the pixels each have the organic light-emitting element of the present invention and a transistor as an example of an active element (switching element) or amplifying element for controlling emission luminance, and the anode or cathode of the organic light-emitting element and the drain electrode or source electrode of the transistor are electrically connected to each other. Here, the display apparatus can be used as an image display apparatus for a PC or the like. The transistor is, for example, a TFT element and the TFT element is provided on, for example, the insulating surface of a substrate.

The display apparatus may be an information processing apparatus that includes an image input portion for inputting image information from, for example, an area CCD, a linear CCD, or a memory card, and displays an input image on its display portion.

In addition, the display portion of an imaging apparatus or inkjet printer may have a touch panel function. The drive system of the touch panel function is not particularly limited.

In addition, the display apparatus may be used in the display portion of a multifunction printer.

A lighting apparatus is an apparatus for lighting, for example, the inside of a room. The lighting apparatus may emit light having any one of the following colors: a white color (having a color temperature of 4,200 K), a daylight color (having a color temperature of 5,000 K), and colors ranging from blue to red colors.

A lighting apparatus of the present invention includes the organic light-emitting element of the present invention and an inverter circuit connected to the organic light-emitting element. It should be noted that the lighting apparatus may further include a color filter.

An image-forming apparatus of the present invention is an image-forming apparatus including: a photosensitive member; a charging unit for charging the surface of the photosensitive member; an exposing unit for exposing the photosensitive member to form an electrostatic latent image; and a developing unit for developing the electrostatic latent image formed on the surface of the photosensitive member. Here, the exposing unit to be provided in the image-forming apparatus includes the organic light-emitting element of the present invention.

In addition, the organic light-emitting element of the present invention can be used as a constituent member for an exposing apparatus for exposing a photosensitive member. An exposing apparatus including a plurality of the organic light-emitting elements of the present invention is, for example, an exposing apparatus in which the organic light-

emitting elements of the present invention are placed to form a line along a predetermined direction.

Next, the display apparatus of the present invention is described with reference to the drawing. FIG. 1 is a schematic sectional view illustrating an example of a display apparatus including an organic light-emitting element and a TFT element connected to the organic light-emitting element. It should be noted that the organic light-emitting element of the present invention is used as the organic light-emitting element constituting a display apparatus **1** of FIG. 1.

The display apparatus **1** of FIG. 1 includes a substrate **11** made of glass or the like and a moisture-proof film **12** for protecting a TFT element or organic compound layer, the film being provided on the substrate. In addition, a metal gate electrode **13** is represented by reference numeral **13**, a gate insulating film **14** is represented by reference numeral **14**, and a semiconductor layer is represented by reference numeral **15**.

A TFT element **18** includes the semiconductor layer **15**, a drain electrode **16**, and a source electrode **17**. An insulating film **19** is provided on the TFT element **18**. An anode **21** constituting the organic light-emitting element and the source electrode **17** are connected to each other through a contact hole **20**.

It should be noted that a system for the electrical connection between the electrode (anode or cathode) in the organic light-emitting element and the electrode (source electrode or drain electrode) in the TFT is not limited to the aspect illustrated in FIG. 1. In other words, one of the anode and the cathode, and one of the source electrode and drain electrode of the TFT element have only to be electrically connected to each other.

Although multiple organic compound layers are illustrated like one layer in the display apparatus **1** of FIG. 1, an organic compound layer **22** may be multiple layers. A first protective layer **24** and second protective layer **25** for suppressing the deterioration of the organic light-emitting element are provided on a cathode **23**.

When the display apparatus **1** of FIG. 1 is a display apparatus that emits white light, an emission layer in the organic compound layer **22** in FIG. 1 may be a layer obtained by mixing a red light-emitting material, a green light-emitting material, and a blue light-emitting material. In addition, the layer may be a laminated emission layer obtained by laminating a layer formed of the red light-emitting material, a layer formed of the green light-emitting material, and a layer formed of the blue light-emitting material. Further, alternatively, the following aspect is permitted: the layer formed of the red light-emitting material, the layer formed of the green light-emitting material, and the layer formed of the blue light-emitting material are, for example, arranged side by side to form domains in one emission layer.

Although the transistor is used as a switching element in the display apparatus **1** of FIG. 1, a MIM element may be used instead of the transistor as the switching element.

In addition, the transistor to be used in the display apparatus **1** of FIG. 1 is not limited to a transistor using a monocrystalline silicon wafer and may be a thin-film transistor including an active layer on the insulating surface of a substrate. A thin-film transistor using monocrystalline silicon as the active layer, a thin-film transistor using non-monocrystalline silicon such as amorphous silicon or microcrystalline silicon as the active layer, or a thin-film transistor using a non-monocrystalline oxide semiconductor such as an indium zinc oxide or an indium gallium zinc oxide as the

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active layer is also permitted. It should be noted that the thin-film transistor is also called a TFT element.

The transistor in the display apparatus 1 of FIG. 1 may be formed in a substrate such as an Si substrate. Here, the phrase "formed in a substrate" means that the transistor is produced by processing the substrate itself such as an Si substrate. In other words, the presence of the transistor in the substrate can be regarded as follows: the substrate and the transistor are integrally formed.

Whether the transistor is provided in the substrate is selected depending on definition. In the case of, for example, a definition of about a QVGA per inch, the organic light-emitting element is preferably provided in the Si substrate.

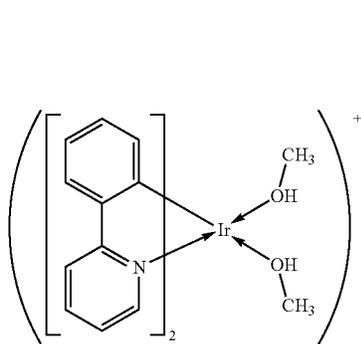
As described above, the driving of the display apparatus using the organic light-emitting element of the present invention enables display that has good image quality and is stable over a long time period.

EXAMPLES

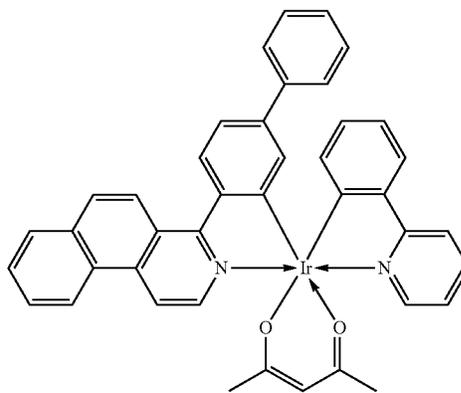
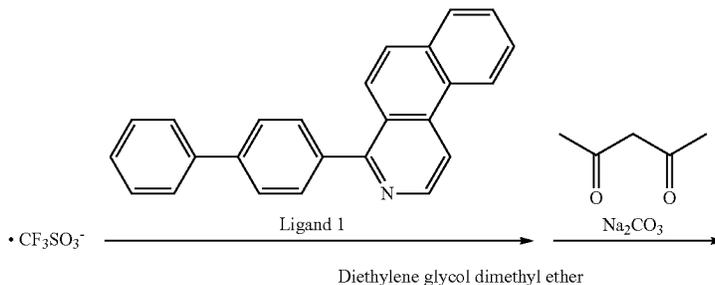
Hereinafter, the present invention is described in detail by way of Examples. However, the present invention is not limited to Examples below.

Synthesis Example 1

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-113



Intermediate 1



Ir-113

(1) Synthesis of Intermediate 1 and Ligand 1

Intermediate 1 was synthesized according to the method described in Patent Literature 4. In addition, Ligand 1 was synthesized according to a method described in Patent Literature 5.

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(2) Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-113

The following reagents and solvent were loaded in a 100-ml recovery flask.

Intermediate 1: 0.864 g (1.21 mmol)

Ligand 1: 0.802 g (2.42 mmol)

Diethylene glycol dimethyl ether: 50 ml

Next, the reaction solution was heated to 160° C. under nitrogen. After that, the reaction solution was stirred at the temperature (160° C.) for 6 hours. At this time, the color of the reaction solution changed from a yellow color to a dark red color. Next, the temperature of the reaction solution was reduced to 120° C. and then the following reagents were added. Acetylacetone (manufactured by Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.): 0.606 g (6.05 mmol)

Sodium carbonate: 0.641 g (6.05 mmol)

Next, the reaction solution was heated to 120° C. under nitrogen. After that, the reaction solution was stirred at the temperature (120° C.) for 2 hours. Next, water was added to a viscous body, which had been produced by removing the solvent of the reaction solution by distillation under reduced pressure, to precipitate a solid. Next, the solid was filtered and then vacuum-dried, followed by purification with a neutral alumina gel column (toluene:ethyl acetate=10:1). Thus, 0.160 g of Exemplified Compound Ir-113 was obtained (yield: 17%).

Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS, Autoflex LRF manufactured by Bruker) confirmed that the compound had an M^+ of 776.2.

Further, the structure of the compound was identified by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ measurement.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ $\{(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{S=O}, 500 \text{ MHz}\}$ δ (ppm): 8.98-8.96 (1H, m), 8.86 (1H, d), 8.73 (1H, d), 8.60 (1H, d), 8.51 (1H, d), 8.26 (1H, d), 8.20-8.17 (3H, m), 7.99 (1H, t), 7.89-7.85

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(2H, m), 7.70 (1H, d), 7.45 (1H, t), 7.36-7.33 (2H, m), 7.28-7.24 (3H, m), 7.20 (1H, dd), 6.74 (1H, t), 6.54 (1H, t), 6.48 (1H, d), 5.99 (1H, d), 5.30 (1H, s), 1.77 (3H, s), 1.70 (3H, s)

The phosphorescence spectrum of a dilute toluene solution (1×10^{-5} M) of Exemplified Compound Ir-113 was measured with an F-4500 manufactured by Hitachi, Ltd. It should be noted that the measurement was performed under the following conditions: the measurement was performed under a nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature and an excitation wavelength was set to 450 nm. As a result of the measurement, the peak wavelength of the phosphorescence spectrum was 609 nm.

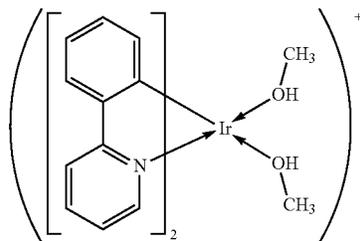
The vacuum thermogravimetric analysis of Exemplified Compound Ir-113 was performed with a TG-DTA 2410SA manufactured by Bruker and then its sublimation temperature (T_{sub}) was determined by the following procedure. First, the thermogravimetric change of the sample was measured under a vacuum of 1×10^{-3} Pa. Next, the resultant measured result was substituted into the following calculation equation (i) to determine a change in saturated vapor pressure P [Pa] with temperature:

$$P = m / \{4.38 \times 10^{-3} \cdot (M/T)^{1/2}\} \quad (i)$$

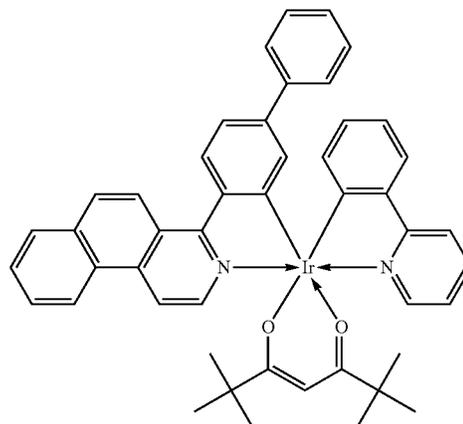
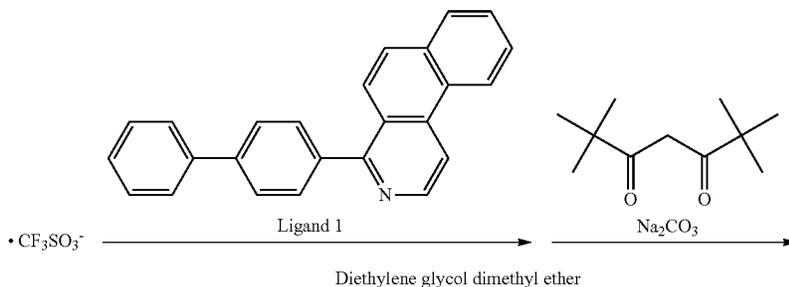
(m: an evaporation rate per unit area [$\text{kg}/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}$], M: the molecular weight of the complex, T: the temperature of an evaporation surface [K]).

It should be noted that m is determined from the following equation (ii):

$$m = (1/U) \cdot (d\Delta W/dt) \quad (ii)$$



Intermediate 1



Ir-114

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(U: the area of a sample dish [m^2], $d\Delta W/dt$: the first derivation of a thermogravimetric curve with respect to time).

Here, a weight change rate within 20 seconds {(amount of weight change)/(20 seconds)} was used as the $d\Delta W/dt$. In addition, a temperature after a lapse of 20 seconds was used as the temperature T.

A saturated vapor pressure curve is obtained by plotting the P obtained by the calculation against the T. In the saturated vapor pressure curve, the P starts to increase immediately after the initiation of the sublimation of the complex. Here, the temperature at which the P exceeded 5×10^{-4} Pa was defined as the T_{sub} . As a result, the T_{sub} in Exemplified Compound Ir-113 was 300°C .

The atmospheric thermogravimetric/differential thermal analysis of Exemplified Compound Ir-113 was performed with a TG-DTA 2000SA manufactured by Bruker. In the resultant differential thermal curve, the temperature at which an exothermic peak started to appear was defined as the decomposition temperature (T_d). It should be noted that a weight reduction simultaneously occurred at the T_d and hence the reaction was confirmed to be a decomposition reaction. As a result, in Exemplified Compound Ir-113, the T_d was 355°C .

Synthesis Example 2

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-114

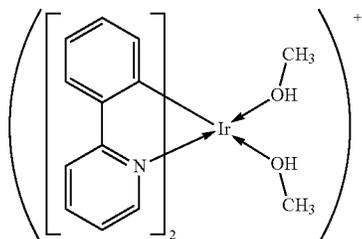
89

Exemplified Compound Ir-114 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in the section (2) of Synthesis Example 1, dipivaloylmethane (manufactured by Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.) was used instead of acetylacetone.

MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M^+ of 860.3.

Further, the structure of the compound was identified by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ measurement.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ $\{(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{S=O}, 500 \text{ MHz}\}$ δ (ppm): 8.99-8.97 (1H, m), 8.86 (1H, d), 8.70 (1H, d), 8.50 (1H, d), 8.37 (1H, d), 8.26 (1H, d), 8.19-8.15 (3H, m), 7.96 (1H, t), 7.86-7.83 (2H, m), 7.73 (1H, d), 7.40 (1H, t), 7.36-7.28 (4H, m), 7.25



Intermediate 1

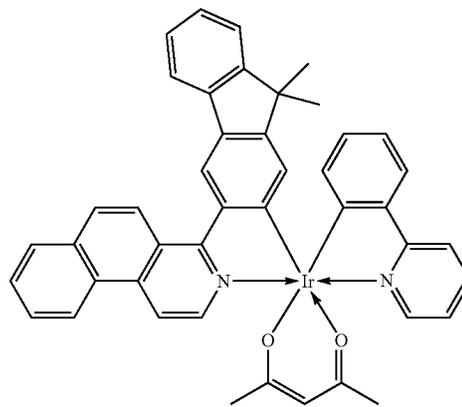
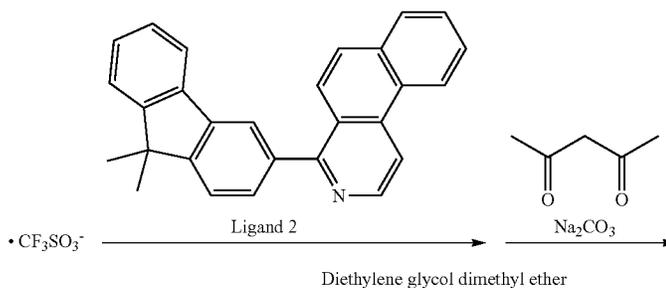
90

(1H, t), 7.20 (1H, dd), 6.75 (1H, t), 6.58-6.55 (2H, m), 6.20 (1H, d), 5.50 (1H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.77 (9H, s)

In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-114 in a dilute toluene solution state was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 612 nm. Further, the T_{sub} of Exemplified Compound Ir-114 was determined in the same manner as in Example 1. As a result, the T_{sub} was 270° C.

Synthesis Example 3

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-125



Ir-125

55

Exemplified Compound Ir-125 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in Synthesis Example 1, Ligand 2 was used instead of Ligand 1. It should be noted that Ligand 2 is a ligand synthesized with reference to Patent Literature 5.

MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M^+ of 816.2.

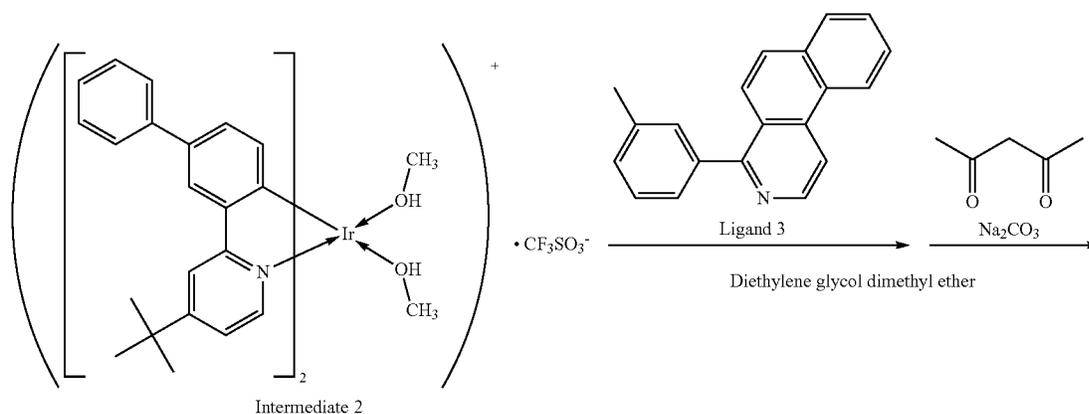
In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-125 in a dilute toluene solution state was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 613 nm.

65

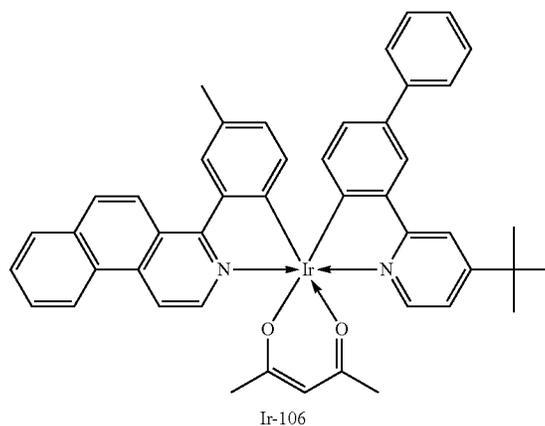
91

Synthesis Example 4

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-106



92



(1) Synthesis of Intermediate 2 and Ligand 3

Intermediate 2 (2-(biphenyl-3-yl)-4-tert-butylpyridine) was synthesized according to a method described in Patent Literature 6. In addition, Ligand 3 was synthesized according to the method described in Patent Literature 5.

(2) Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-106

Exemplified Compound Ir-106 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in the section (2) of Synthesis Example 1, Intermediate 2 was used instead of Intermediate 1 and Ligand 3 was used instead of Ligand 1.

MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M^+ of 846.3.

Further, the structure of the compound was identified by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ measurement.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ $\{(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{S}=\text{O}, 500 \text{ MHz}\}$ δ (ppm): 8.96-8.94 (1H, m), 8.85 (1H, d), 8.69 (1H, d), 8.58 (1H, d), 8.35 (1H, d), 8.28 (1H, d), 8.18-8.15 (2H, m), 8.06 (1H, d), 7.99 (1H, s), 7.87-7.85 (2H, m), 7.59 (2H, d), 7.48 (1H, dd), 7.36 (2H, t), 7.23 (1H, t), 6.82 (1H, dd), 6.53 (1H, d), 6.18 (1H, d), 6.03 (1H, d), 5.27 (1H, s), 2.23 (3H, s), 1.75 (3H, s), 1.68 (3H, s), 1.47 (9H, s)

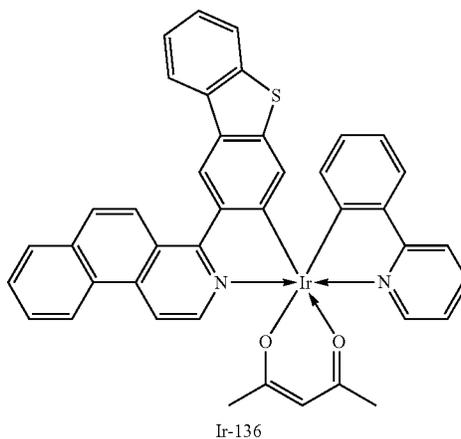
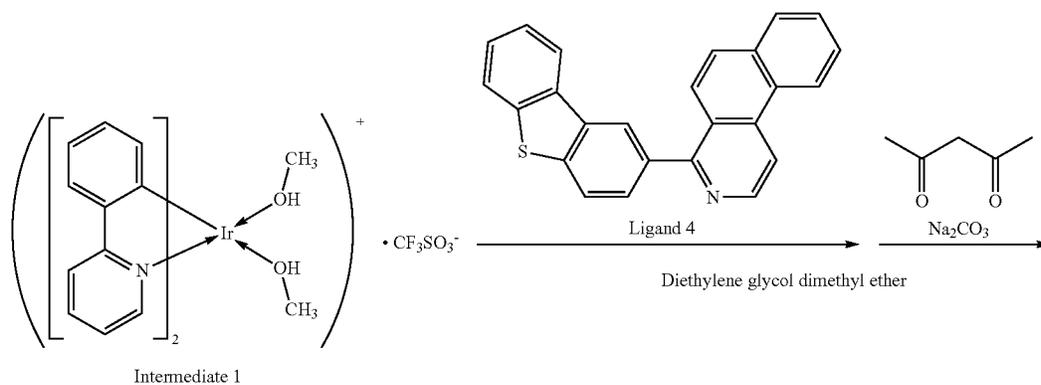
In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-106 in a dilute toluene solution state was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 606 nm.

Further, the T_{sub} and T_d of Exemplified Compound Ir-106 were determined in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, the T_{sub} and the T_d were 290°C . and 375°C ., respectively.

93

Synthesis Example 5

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-136



Exemplified Compound Ir-136 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in Synthesis Example 1, Ligand 4 was used instead of Ligand 1. It should be noted that Ligand 4 was synthesized according to the method described in Patent Literature 3.

MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M⁺ of 806.2.

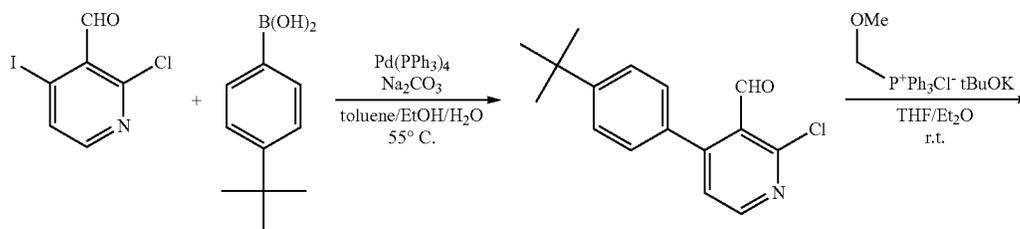
In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-136 in a dilute toluene solution state was

measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 610 nm.

50

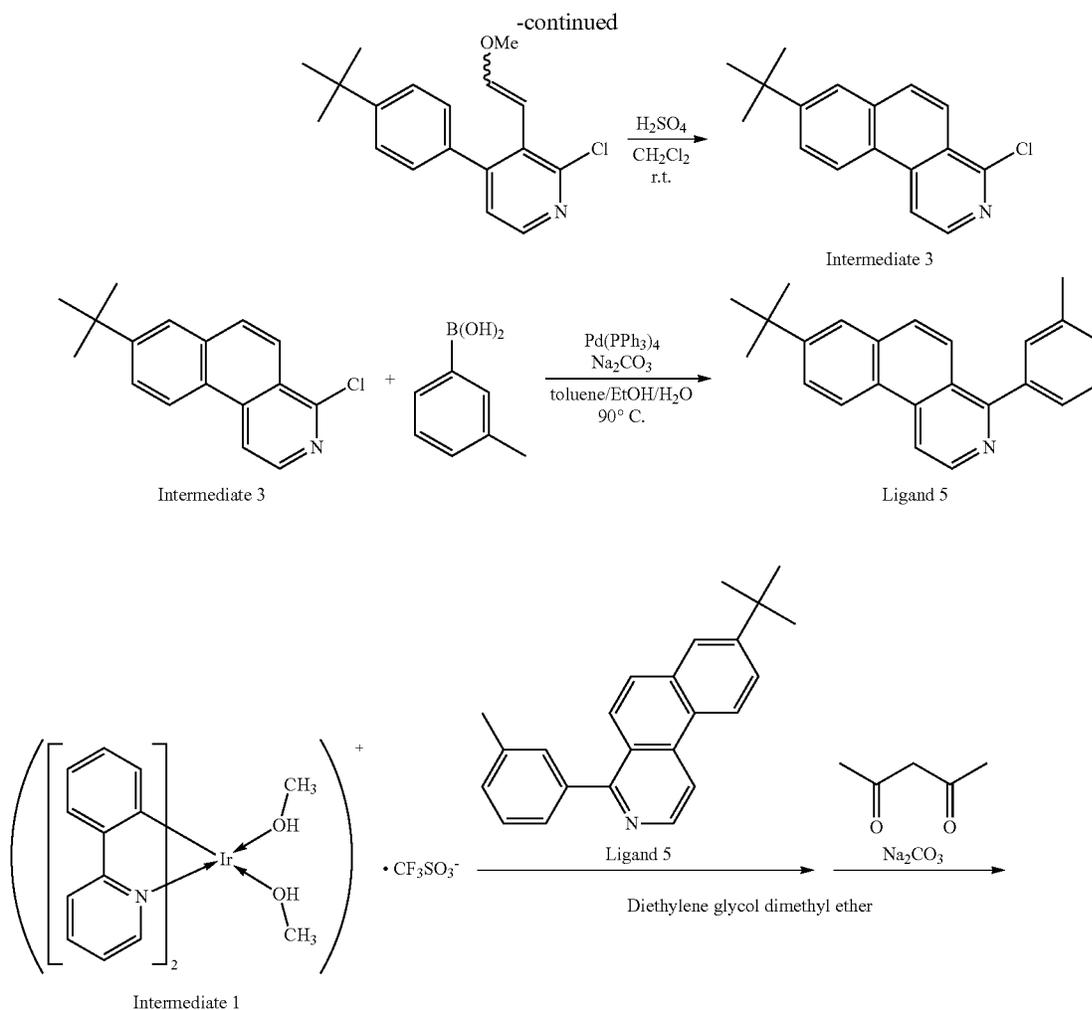
Synthesis Example 6

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-108



95

96



(1) Synthesis of Intermediate 3

Intermediate 3 was synthesized according to the synthesis scheme by using 2-chloro-4-(4-tert-butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carbaldehyde (manufactured by Shanghai P&T Fine Chemical) and 4-tert-butylphenylboronic acid (manufactured by Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.) as starting raw materials.

(2) Synthesis of Ligand 5

Ligand 5 was synthesized according to the scheme by using Intermediate 3 and 3-methylphenylboronic acid (manufactured by Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.)

(3) Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-108

Exemplified Compound Ir-108 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in the section (2) of Synthesis Example 1, Ligand 5 was used instead of Ligand 1.

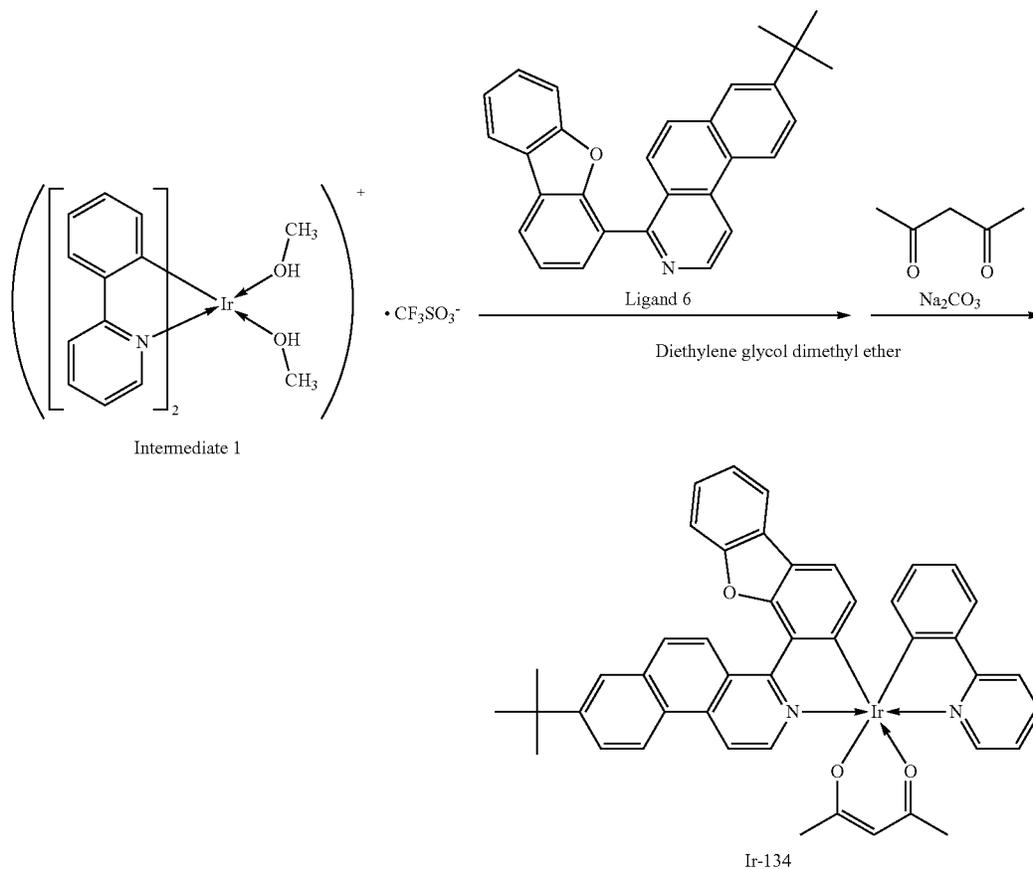
MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M⁺ of 770.3.

In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-108 in a dilute toluene solution state was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 605 nm.

97

Synthesis Example 7

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-134



(1) Synthesis of Ligand 6

Ligand 6 was obtained by the same method as that of the section (2) of Synthesis Example 6 except that in the section (2) of Synthesis Example 6, 4-(dibenzofuranyl)boronic acid (manufactured by Sigma-Aldrich) was used instead of 3-methylphenylboronic acid.

(2) Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-134

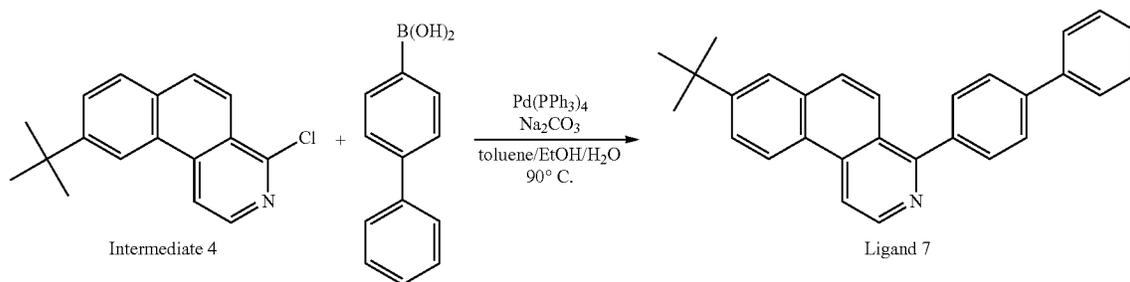
Exemplified Compound Ir-134 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in the section (2) of Synthesis Example 1, Ligand 6 was used instead of Ligand 1.

MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M^+ of 846.2.

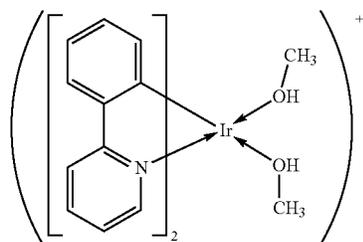
In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-134 in a dilute toluene solution state was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 608 nm.

Synthesis Example 8

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-116



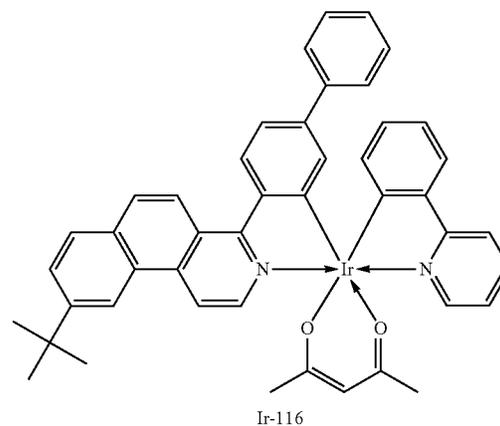
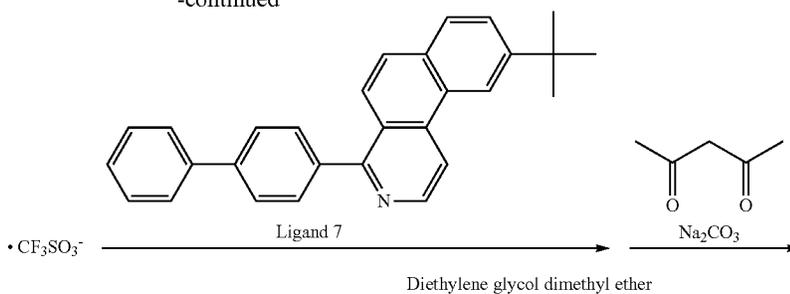
99



Intermediate 1

-continued

100



Ir-116

(1) Synthesis of Ligand 7

Intermediate 4 was obtained by the same method as that of the section (1) of Synthesis Example 6 except that in the section (1) of Synthesis Example 6, 3-tert-butylphenylboronic acid (manufactured by Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.) was used instead of 4-tert-butylphenylboronic acid.

Next, Ligand 7 was obtained by the same method as that of the section (2) of Synthesis Example 6 except that in the section (2) of Synthesis Example 6, Intermediate 4 was used instead of Intermediate 3 and 4-biphenylboronic acid (manufactured by Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.) was used instead of 3-methylphenylboronic acid.

(2) Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-116

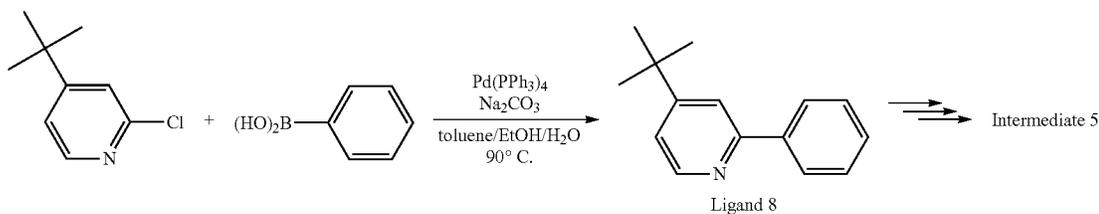
Exemplified Compound Ir-116 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in Synthesis Example 1, Ligand 7 was used instead of Ligand 1.

MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M^+ of 832.3.

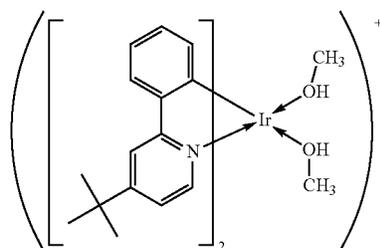
In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-116 in a dilute toluene solution state was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 609 nm.

Synthesis Example 9

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-201



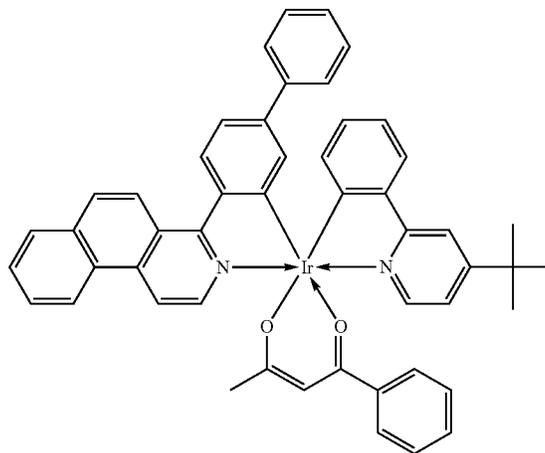
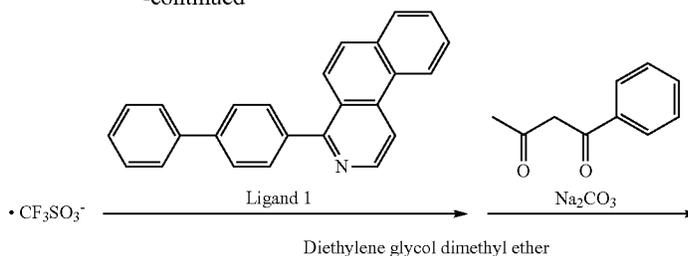
101



Intermediate 5

-continued

102



Ir-201

(1) Synthesis of Ligand 8

Ligand 8 was synthesized according to the scheme by using 2-chloro-4-tert-butylpyridine synthesized by the method described in Non Patent Literature 1 and phenylboronic acid (Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.) as starting raw materials.

(2) Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-201

Intermediate 5 was obtained by the same method as that of the section (1) of Synthesis Example 1 except that in the section (1) of Synthesis Example 1, 1,2-phenyl-4-tert-butylpyridine was used instead of 2-phenylpyridine.

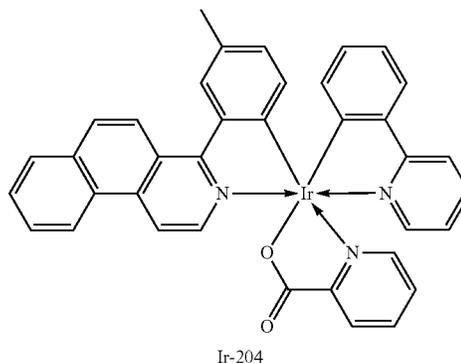
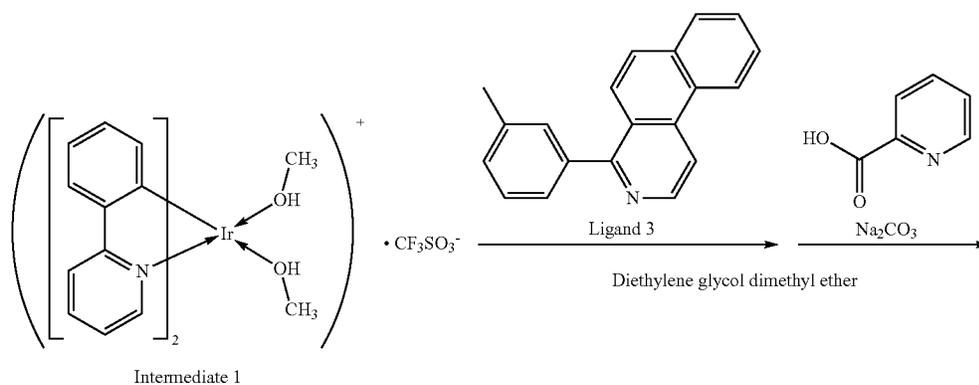
Next, Exemplified Compound Ir-201 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in

the section (2) of Synthesis Example 1, Intermediate 5 was used instead of Intermediate 1 and 1-phenyl-1,3-butane-55 dione (manufactured by Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.) was used instead of acetylacetone.

MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M^+ of 894.3.

In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of Exemplified Compound Ir-201 in a dilute toluene solution state was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 610 nm.

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound Ir-204



Exemplified Compound Ir-204 was obtained by the same method as that of Synthesis Example 1 except that in the section (2) of Synthesis Example 1, Ligand 3 was used instead of Ligand 1 and pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (manufactured by Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.) was used instead of acetylacetone.

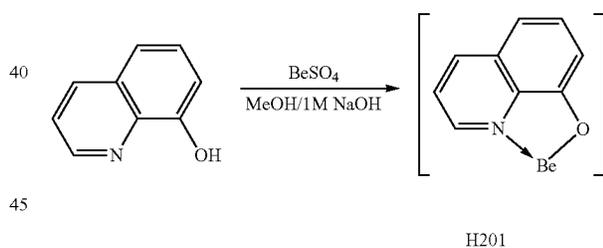
MALDI-TOF MS confirmed that the compound had an M⁺ of 737.2.

In addition, the phosphorescence spectrum of a dilute toluene solution of Exemplified Compound Ir-204 was measured in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1. As a result, its peak wavelength was 597 nm.

Synthesis Example 11

Synthesis of Exemplified Compound H201

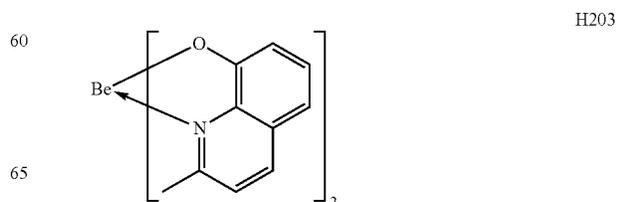
Exemplified Compound H201 was synthesized by a synthesis scheme shown below, specifically, by performing a complexation reaction in methanol involving using quinolin-8-ol as a starting raw material.



Synthesis Example 12

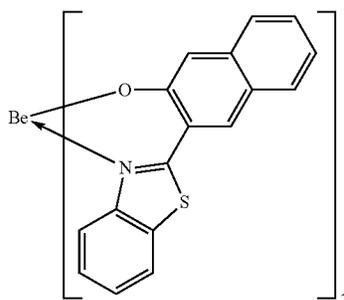
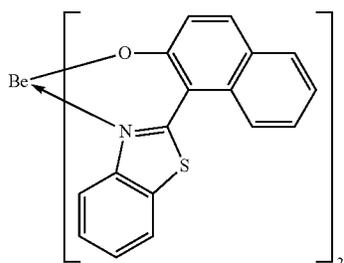
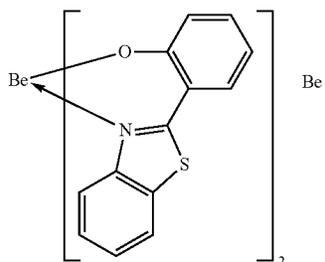
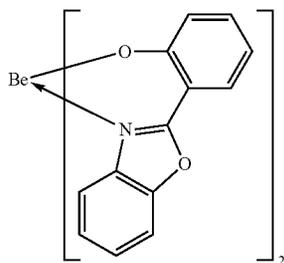
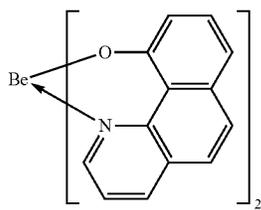
Synthesis of Metal Complex Serving as Host

Exemplified compounds shown below can each be synthesized by appropriately changing the starting raw material (compound serving as a ligand) in Synthesis Example 11.



105

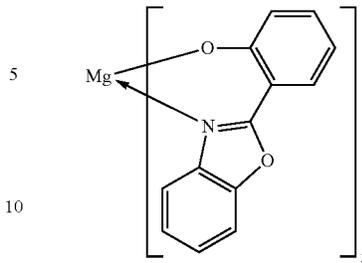
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In addition, exemplified compounds shown below can each be synthesized by changing the metal compound reagent to be used upon synthesis of H219, H226, or H229 in the compound group from BeSO₄ to Mg(NO₃)₂.

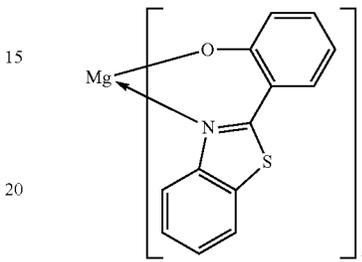
106

H207



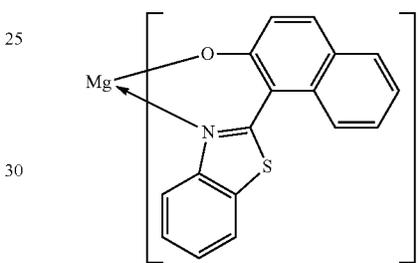
H119

H219



H126

H226

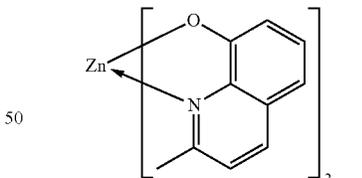


H129

H229

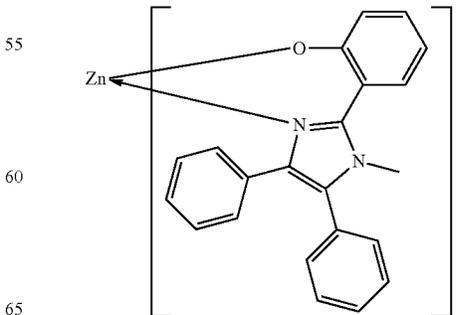
Meanwhile, Exemplified Compound H303 shown below can be synthesized by changing the metal compound reagent to be used upon synthesis of H203 from BeSO₄ to Zn(CH₃COO)₂/2H₂O. In addition, Exemplified Compound H316 shown below can be synthesized by appropriately changing the starting raw material (compound serving as a ligand) upon synthesis of Exemplified Compound H303.

H230



H303

H230



H316

H230

In this example, an organic light-emitting element having a construction in which “an anode/a hole transport layer/an electron blocking layer/an emission layer/a hole blocking layer/an electron transport layer/a cathode” were formed on a substrate in the stated order was produced by the following method.

First, ITO was formed into a film on a glass substrate to form an ITO film. At this time, the thickness of the ITO film was set to 100 nm. Next, the ITO film was subjected to desired patterning processing to form an ITO electrode (anode). The substrate on which the ITO electrode had been thus formed was used as an ITO substrate in the following steps.

Next, organic compound layers and electrode layers shown in Table 2 below were continuously formed on the ITO substrate by a vacuum vapor deposition method. It should be noted that at this time, the electrode area of the opposing electrode (metal electrode layers, cathode) was set to 3 mm².

TABLE 2

	Material	Thickness (nm)
Hole injection layer: HTL	HT2	40
Electron blocking layer: EBL	HT7	10
Emission layer	Host: H226	30
HOST	Guest: Ir-116	
GUEST	(H226:Ir-116 = 96:4 (weight ratio))	
Hole blocking layer: HBL	ET3	10
Electron transport layer: ETL	ET2	50
First metal electrode layer	LiF	0.5
Second metal electrode layer	Al	100

Finally, the produced element was sealed with a glass cap with a moisture absorbent in an inert atmosphere to provide an organic light-emitting element.

The element characteristics of the resultant element were measured and evaluated. The organic light-emitting element had a maximum emission wavelength of 619 nm and chromaticity coordinates (x, y) of (0.66, 0.34).

In addition, the current-voltage characteristics of the organic light-emitting element were measured with a microammeter 4140B manufactured by Hewlett-Packard Company, and its emission luminance was measured with a BM7 manufactured by TOPCON CORPORATION.

As a result, the element had a light-emitting efficiency at the time of its light emission at a luminance of 2,000 cd/m² of 25 cd/A and a luminance half lifetime at a current value of 100 mA/cm² of 300 hours.

Examples 2 to 15 and Comparative Example 1

Organic light-emitting elements were each produced by the same method as that of Example 1 except that the compounds used as the hole transport layer (HTL), the electron blocking layer (EBL), the emission layer host (HOST), the emission layer guest (GUEST), the hole blocking layer (HBL), and the electron transport layer (ETL) were appropriately changed to compounds shown in Table 2. The element characteristics of the resultant elements were measured and evaluated in the same manner as in Example 1. Table 3 shows the results of the measurement.

	HTL	EBL	HOST	GUEST	HBL	ETL	Light-emitting efficiency at 2,000 cd/m ² [ca/A]
Example 1	HT2	HT7	H226	Ir-106	ET3	ET2	25
Example 2	HT2	HT7	H119	Ir-106	ET3	ET2	23
Example 3	HT1	HT8	H126	Ir-108	ET3	ET2	23
Example 4	HT1	HT8	H129	Ir-113	ET3	ET2	22
Example 5	HT1	HT7	H201	Ir-106	ET4	ET2	24
Example 6	HT1	HT7	H203	Ir-114	ET4	ET1	24
Example 7	HT2	HT8	H207	Ir-106	ET3	ET2	24
Example 8	HT2	HT7	H207	Ir-116	ET3	ET2	22
Example 9	HT2	HT11	H219	Ir-106	ET4	ET1	24
Example 10	HT2	HT7	H226	Ir-113	ET3	ET1	23
Example 11	HT1	HT7	H229	Ir-114	ET4	ET2	23
Example 12	HT2	HT8	H229	Ir-106	ET3	ET2	25
Example 13	HT2	HT7	H230	Ir-108	ET3	ET2	25
Example 14	HT2	HT7	H303	Ir-134	ET7	ET2	25
Example 15	HT1	HT7	H316	Ir-201	ET3	ET2	23
Comparative Example 1	HT1	HT8	H226	RD4	ET3	ET2	13

The organic light-emitting element of Comparative Example 1 has a lower light-emitting efficiency than those of the organic light-emitting elements of Examples. This is caused by the fact that efficient energy transfer from the material complex as the host to the guest does not occur in addition to the fact that the guest in the emission layer is not a big-based Ir complex. In view of the foregoing, it can be said that the organic light-emitting element of the present invention is an organic light-emitting element having high heat stability and high efficiency.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

18 TFT element

21 Anode

22 Organic compound layer

23 Cathode

As described above with reference to the embodiments and Examples, according to the present invention, it is possible to provide the excellent organic light-emitting element having high light-emitting efficiency and a long element lifetime.

While the present invention has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed exemplary embodiments. The scope of the following claims is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures and functions.

This application claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2013-006321, filed on Jan. 17, 2013, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

The invention claimed is:

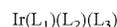
1. An organic light-emitting element comprising:

an anode;

a cathode; and

an organic compound layer placed between the anode and the cathode,

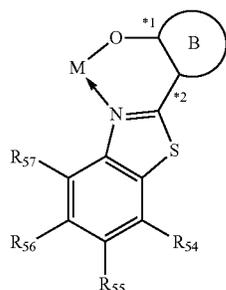
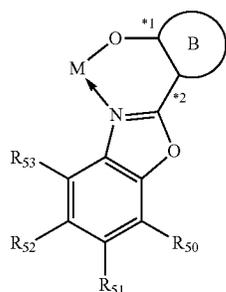
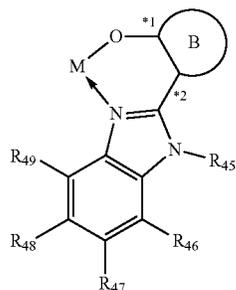
wherein the organic compound layer includes an iridium complex represented by the following general formula [1] and a metal complex represented by the following general formula [9]:



[1]

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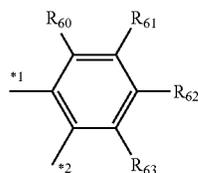


in the formulae [10] to [15], R₃₀ to R₅₇ each represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a substituted amino group, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group;

in the formulae [12] to [15]:

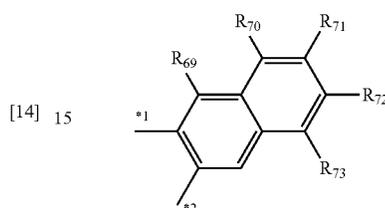
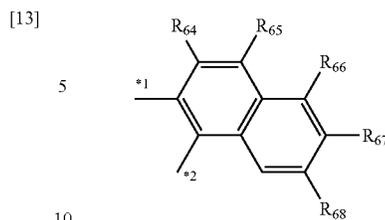
a ring B comprises any one of cyclic structures represented by the following general formulae [16] to [18]; and

*1 represents a bonding position with an oxygen atom and *2 represents a bonding position with a carbon atom in a five-membered heterocyclic skeleton:



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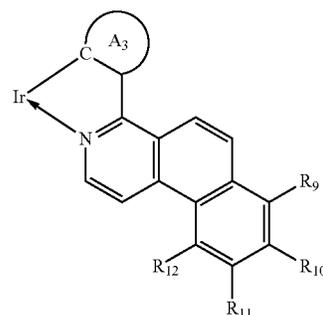


in the formulae [16] to [18], R₆₀ to R₇₃ each represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a substituted amino group, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group.

2. The organic light-emitting element according to claim 1, wherein the ring A₁ is a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, a fluorene ring, a phenanthrene ring, a carbazole ring, a dibenzofuran ring, or a dibenzothiophene ring; and

the ring A₁ may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

3. The organic light-emitting element according to claim 1, wherein the partial structure represented by the general formula [2] comprises a partial structure represented by the following general formula [4]:



in the general formula [4]:

a ring A₃ is a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, a fluorene ring, a phenanthrene ring, a carbazole ring, a dibenzofuran ring, or a dibenzothiophene ring, and the ring A₃ may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group; and R₉ to R₁₂ each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a

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phenyl group, and when any one of substituents represented by R_9 to R_{12} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a phenyl group, the substituent may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group, and R_9 to R_{12} may be identical to or different from one another.

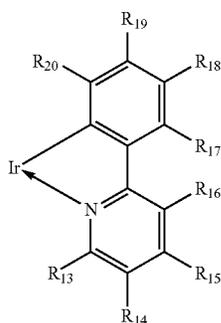
4. The organic light-emitting element according to claim 1, wherein the ring A_2 is a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, a fluorene ring, a phenanthrene ring, a carbazole ring, a dibenzofuran ring, or a dibenzothiophene ring;

the ring A_2 may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group;

the ring B is a pyridine ring, a quinoline ring, an isoquinoline ring, a benzo[f]quinoline ring, a benzo[h]quinoline ring, a benzo[f]isoquinoline ring, a benzo[h]isoquinoline ring, an oxazole ring, a benzo[d]oxazole ring, a benzo[d]thiazole ring, or an imidazole ring; and

the ring B may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

5. The organic light-emitting element according to claim 1, wherein the partial structure represented by the general formula [3] comprises a partial structure represented by the following general formula [5]:



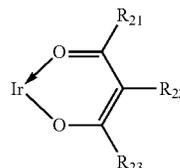
in the formula [5], R_{13} to R_{20} each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group, and may be identical to or different from one another, and when any one of substituents represented by R_{13} to R_{20} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, or an aryloxy group, the substituent may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

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6. The organic light-emitting element according to claim 5, wherein the R_{13} to R_{20} each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a phenyl group; and

the R_{13} to R_{20} may be identical to or different from one another, and when any one of the substituents represented by the R_{13} to R_{20} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, or a phenyl group, the substituent may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

7. The organic light-emitting element according to claim 1, wherein in the general formula [1], a partial structure IrL_3 comprises a partial structure represented by the following general formula [6]:



[6]

in the formula [6], R_{21} to R_{23} each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, or a cyano group, and may be identical to or different from one another, and when any one of substituents represented by R_{21} to R_{23} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, or an aryloxy group, the substituent may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

8. The organic light-emitting element according to claim 7, wherein the R_{21} to R_{23} each represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms; and

when any one of the substituents represented by the R_{21} to R_{23} is an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, the substituent may further have any substituent selected from an alkyl group having 1 or more and 4 or less carbon atoms, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, and a cyano group.

9. A display apparatus comprising multiple pixels, wherein the pixels each have the organic light-emitting element according to claim 1 and an active element connected to the organic light-emitting element.

10. The display apparatus according to claim 9, wherein an electrode of the active element is formed of a transparent oxide semiconductor.

11. The display apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a color filter.

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12. A display apparatus, which is formed by laminating the organic light-emitting element according to claim 1 to thereby output white light as a whole.

13. A lighting apparatus comprising:
the organic light-emitting element according to claim 1; 5
and
an inverter circuit connected to the organic light-emitting element.

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